Danding vows to fight gov't takeover of San Miguel

Story Below Col. 1

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, July 15, 2003 ★★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 217 P15

Police nab suspect in Koronadal bombing

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila

POLICE officials yesterday announced the arrest of one of the three suspects in last week's bombing of the public market in Koronadal City that left three people dead and at least 30 others wounded.

Senior Supt. Romeo Rufino, South Cotabato police director, said the suspect, Edu Mangudadatu, 23, of Barangay Dungguan, Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat, was arrested inside the same market at around 5:20 p.m. on Saturday.

In Cotabato City, Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, Central Mindanao police chief, said the suspect was nabbed in his home in one of Koronadal's slum districts on Sunday.

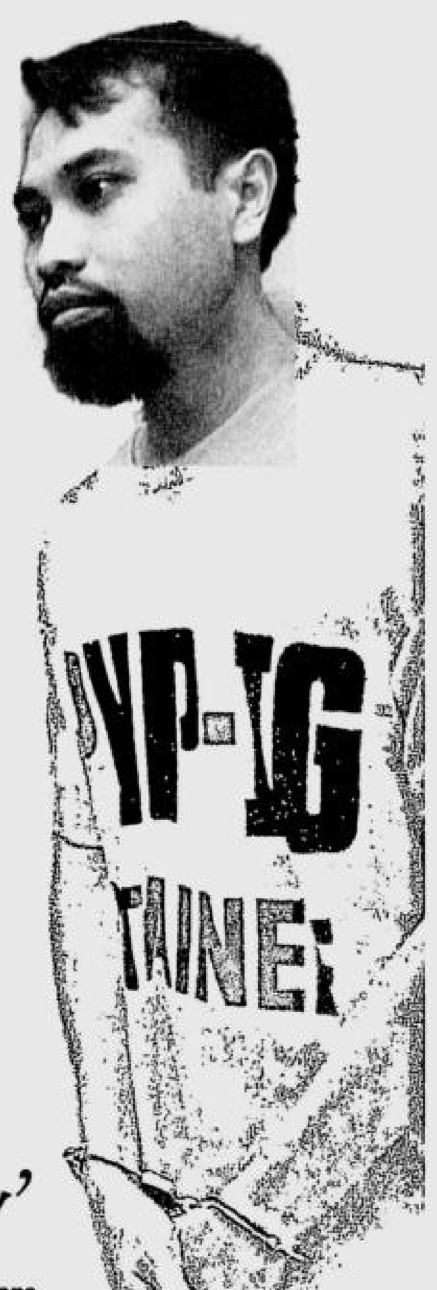
Raval said the suspect and his companions were seen rushing out of the market seconds before the improvised explosive device went off. "His face and other features resemble those of one of the three guys in the police sketches as provided by the witnesses."

"We are following up a very good lead,

POLICE/ A16

Indon bomber bolts Crame; 4 officers axed

GMA embarrassed, 'really very angry'



AL-GHOZI's escape is described as "a major breach in security"

By Christian V. Esguerra and Juliet L. Javellana

A "VERY ANGRY" President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a nationwide manhunt for a top Indonesian bomb expert and two suspected Filipino terrorists who escaped from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame under highly suspicious circumstances.

Airports and seaports have also been put on alert for Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian explosives expert belonging to the Jemaah Islamiya regional terrorist group who had confessed to his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said Al-Ghozi escaped between 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. from the heavily secured compound of the Intelligence Group in Camp Crame, together with two suspected Moro bandits.

Ebdane identified the other escapees as Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, both suspected Abu Sayyaf members accused of past kidnappings of Americans.

"If you have a gun and you see them, you can shoot them," Ebdane said as he showed reporters pictures of the escapees.

Ms Macapagal sacked the three police guards assigned to watch the cell of Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal. Police officials said there were no signs of a forced breakout, suggesting connivance with the guards.

A police source said money might have been involved, adding the three guards could face charges for gross negligence and dereliction of duty. The guards were identified as Insp. Jaime Dime, SPO3 Ruperto Principe and PO1 Ronald Palmares.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said Ms Macapagal was "really very angry" and warned that the escape could lead to an overhaul of the PNP. Ebdane accepted the resignation of Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza as head of the Intelligence Group and designated Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo as officer in charge.

The escape embarrassed Ms Macapagal who discussed early on Monday counterterrorism cooperation and assistance with Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

"This is an incident that is very unfortunate and the President intends to get to the bottom of this," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

INDON/ A16

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Howard shakes hands with one of the young welcomers waving Australian and Philippine flags at the Malacañang grounds. Looking on is President Macapagal while in the background are Mrs. Janette Howard and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA on Iraq war: I have no regrets

President gags PM

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

TAMA NA... 'DI NA NAKA-KATAWA YAN!

THIS gag's no joke, in case anyone still doubts it.

And now President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for political advisers and party mates to stop speculating on her plans for 2004 apparently covers visiting foreign leaders—well, at least this current visitor.

Just the same, Australian Prime Minister John Howard

PRESIDENT/ A4

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DESPITE recent evidence that the US-led invasion of Iraq was based on faulty intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Australian Prime Minister John Howard are unwavering in their support for the attack.

"I have no regrets over my decision. It was the right thing to do and I leave history to judge me on that," the President said at a joint press briefing in Malacañang with Howard.

Ms Macapagal said her administration's backing of the US-led forces ensured the safety and security of more than a million Filipinos in the Middle East and severed the ties between the former Iraqi regime and terrorist networks in the country.

Howard said: "The intelligence assessment that came to me was strong and firm and if I had my time over again, I would not have behaved any differently in relation to the direction of the Australian government."

He said the evidence presented so far had not undermined the credibility of British and American intelligence on Iraq.

Howard noted that the issue of Iraq's importation of uranium out of Africa had been blown out of proportion.

GMA/ A4

Australia, RP sign antiterror accord; Manila gets A$5M

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Howard yesterday announced a new antiterrorism accord with the Philippines and a A$5-million aid package designed to bolster Southeast Asia's security shield against attacks.

Philippine Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty signed the new accord on cooperation against terrorism and cross-border crime. It builds on an earlier counterterrorism pact signed by the countries in March.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer signed a memorandum of understanding that provided the framework for bilateral cooperation in preventing international terrorism and transnational crime.

Howard, in Manila on the first leg of an eight-day Asian trip dominated by security concerns, spoke at a news conference with President Macapagal-Arroyo after they held talks on how Australia could help the Philippines battle terrorists and the poverty that breeds them.

Australia will also provide a security assistance package that includes training for Philippine police in forensics and crime scene investigations, a laboratory to detect document fraud, the strengthening of port security, and bolstered links with their Southeast Asian neighbors in law enforcement and border control,

AUSTRALIA/ A16

Danding to fight SMC takeover

'I guess they will try (to wrest control). That's the way it is'

"I DON'T have to be president of this country. I don't need the job."

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. made the statements, saying that the Sandiganbayan ruling that he did not control United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) could have been politically motivated. (*See related story*)

"Well, it seems that way. It is surprising the decision came out after (the) plans that I will be running for the presidency floated," Cojuangco said.

But he vowed to fend off any government move to take over San Miguel Corp. after his control was put in serious doubt by a court ruling.

"I guess they will try (to wrest control of the company) so we will try to defend our position. *Ganyan lang talaga* (That's the way it is)," Cojuangco said yesterday at a news conference.

Asked about the possibility of losing the chairmanship of San Miguel, he said he would "fight for it."

Cojuangco said he was prepared to show proof that his shares in San Miguel were not bought using coconut levy funds, his lawyer Estelito Mendoza said.

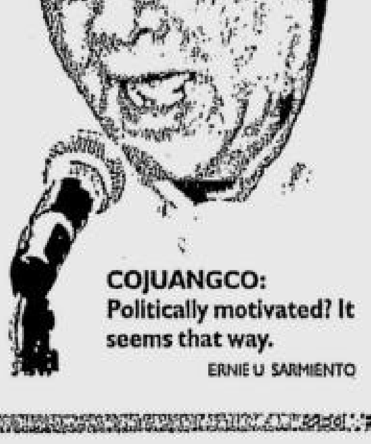
Cojuangco suffered a severe blow Friday in a long-running dispute with the government when the Sandiganbayan ruled that he did not control UCPB, which holds a 27-percent stake in San Miguel.

The court said Cojuangco's 72-percent holding in UCPB—and by extension the 27-percent stake in San Miguel—had been acquired illegally using levies imposed on coconut farmers during the regime of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The ruling, which can be appealed, effectively gives the government the advantage in its dispute with Cojuangco, which dates back to 1986 and the fall of Marcos. It opens to further question another 20-percent stake which he holds separately in San Miguel.

Mendoza downplayed the effect of the Sandiganbayan ruling on SMC. UCPB is the administrator of the Coconut Investment Industry Fund, a fund set up using

DANDING/ A7



COJUANGCO: Politically motivated? It seems that way.

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

No charges vs tycoon, says lawyer

By Philip C. Tubeza, Dona Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. is not facing criminal charges despite the Sandiganbayan ruling that his shares in United Coconut Planters Bank belong to the government, his lawyer said yesterday.

"That has nothing to do with any criminal liability. It has absolutely no connection to any possible criminal indictment (of Cojuangco)," former Solicitor Gener-

NO CRIMINAL/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/15/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senate vote on Cha-cha out today

By Christine O. Avendaño

AT LEAST one senator has expressed approval of a new strategy proposed by five pro-Charter change lawmakers to ensure that the initiative is sent directly to the Senate floor for discussion.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told reporters yesterday he would support a proposal that would allow for only five solons to petition the Senate on the matter, because "this cannot be left hanging, this has to be resolved one way or the other."

The proposal was made by Sen. Edgardo Angara, who said he would initiate the move if his committee on constitutional amendments, revisions on codes and laws failed to come up with a decision on the mode to amend the Constitution.

Angara said he would reveal today the result of a vote taken by the 14-member committee. Many of the members were abroad, he said, but were expected to submit their votes yesterday.

The members were given three options: convene Congress into a constituent assembly, convene a constitutional convention, or hold a referendum for the people to choose between the two modes.

A majority vote of eight is needed for the committee to endorse an option.

Biazon, a committee member, earlier told Angara that he was supporting the referendum option "because of time constraints, and because I see there is no consensus between the two Houses."

The House of Representatives has approved a resolution endorsing a constituent assembly to tackle Charter change, while the Senate remains undecided on the issue, with Senate President Franklin Drilon supporting a Constitutional convention and other senators led by Angara favoring a constituent assembly.

A check with other members of Angara's committee showed that Sen. Manuel Villar, like Biazon, is opting for a referendum. But while maintaining that the people should decide, he noted that a Constitutional convention was too expensive for the government.

Asked if he would back up Angara's option if the committee could not reach an agreement, Villar said there was no need for his support because there were already five senators on Angara's side.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who is in Australia, favors the constitutional convention mode. *With Norman Bordadora*

PRESIDENT Macapagal and Secretary Lina inspect suspected shabu-making ingredients at the Merville, Parañaque "drug factory."

Another drug lab uncovered in Parañaque

By Alcuin Papa

AUTHORITIES yesterday raided another suspected shabu laboratory in Parañaque City, the third lab discovered by police in southern Metro Manila said to belong to a single drug syndicate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself later inspected the drug lab located at 25 New York St., Merville, Parañaque.

The raid was conducted by elements of the PNP's Region IV command, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Presidential Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force, based on information provided by Michael Fandag, one of those arrested last Saturday in the first of the series of raids on the gang's shabu labs, this one in Silang, Cavite.

Recovered in the latest raid were two mixing machines, around 14 bottles of methanol and acetone used to make shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), mixing pans and various other implements.

Senior Insp. Juanita Ramos of the Southern Police District crime lab said the recovered materials tested positive for traces of shabu.

The raid began around 12:30 p.m., when operatives led by task force chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, PDEA head retired Gen. Anselmo Avenido, PNP Region IV commander Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, SPD head Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez and Parañaque police chief Supt. Rolando Estilles entered the bungalow armed with a search warrant issued by Parañaque Judge Jansen Rodriguez.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said the lab had been in operation for around two months and could produce around five kilos of shabu a day.

Fandag told reporters he had gone to the Merville house a week ago to help deliver a freezer and other household appliances. He told police the house belonged to Benito Sy, who was also linked to the shabu lab in Silang.

A warehouse belonging to Sy was raided last Sunday night in Las Piñas City. Another bungalow on Alejandrino Street, BF Resort, Las Piñas was raided last Saturday and around 300 grams of high-grade shabu was seized. The house belonged to Wilson Li, another one of the four Chinese nationals arrested in the Silang bust.

"This is one big syndicate with big-time operations. These people are big fish," Ms Macapagal said of the group.

Supt. Nelson Yabut of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said the group distributed shabu in Metro Manila, the Southern Tagalog region and provinces north of Metro Manila.

He said the Merville house was an "outlet" of the gang operating the Silang "factory." Other outlets included the Las Piñas warehouse.

Yabut said Sy was a "fishing magnate" operating in Malabon. Sy's business was said to have gone bankrupt and, early this year, he was said to have gone to Taiwan.

The police, according to Yabut, had monitored the arrival of shabu-making equipment in the country on June 17 consigned to the Silang suspects and Sy.

According to the suspects arrested in Silang, the group used the South Harbor as an entry point, Yabut said. On one occasion, a container van dropped off a shipment of machines and chemicals declared as mattresses at the Silang lab.

Neighbors of the Merville house said they did not notice anything peculiar about the house or its occupants—a Chinese man, his Filipino wife and their children. They could not say, though, how many children there were.

No arrests were made at the house as it was empty. Signs of a hurried escape, however, were apparent. Closets in the four bedrooms were in disarray.

Household items littered the floors. In the kitchen, baby bottles ready for feeding were found. In the living room, Buddhist images shared space with Catholic saints. *With Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Business card-leaving officials to be summoned

AUTHORITIES will summon the police and local government officials whose business cards were found in suspected drug laboratories raided by police in Silang, Cavite and Las Piñas City over the weekend.

"These officials might be the protectors of the shabu labs," Cavite provincial police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"Our policemen are digging deeper to see if there are other police brass involved in the illegal drug trade aside from those whose cards were found during the raids," he added.

Rosales, however, refused to reveal the names of the officials who owned the business cards pending the results of the ongoing investigation.

Rosales identified the four Chinese nationals arrested in Silang on Saturday as Wen Li Chen, Wilson Li, Leandro Go and Daniel Co. Also arrested were their Filipino helpers Arnel Villaber and Michael Pagadan.

Rosales said, "This drug syndicate is among the 13 foreign drug rings on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's list."

As this developed, Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina asked Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide for more special trial courts to hear drug cases, in view of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs.

Lina said the 35 special trial courts hearing drug cases nationwide were inadequate, considering the rising number of suspected drug dealers that are being arrested and prosecuted.

To date more than 9,500 drug cases have been filed in court in connection with the arrests and seizures made by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Lina said.

Lina, who also chairs the Dangerous Drugs Board, noted that from July 2002 to the present, the different law enforcement agencies under the supervision of the PDEA have conducted more than 11,500 anti-drug operations.

The operations resulted in the arrest of nearly 14,500 persons, including 8,000 users, 6,200 pushers, eight marijuana cultivators, 26 financiers and the seizure of more than P4.6 billion worth of illegal drugs, chemicals and equipment for drug manufacture, including dried marijuana leaves and seeds, cocaine, Ecstasy tablets and shabu.

Lina said among those arrested were 19 Chinese, four Americans, three Taiwanese, three Pakistanis and two Indonesians. He added that seven nationals from Australia, Great Britain, South Korea, Germany, Brazil, Israel, Japan and Jordan were also arrested.

Aside from the setting up of more trial courts, Lina asked for more jails for drug dealers and rehabilitation centers for drug dependents who wished to "turn a new leaf in their lives."

Lina urged former drug dependents to help the government in its war against illegal drugs by becoming productive citizens. *Nelson F. Flores, Manila, and Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Paguia seeks Sandigan justices' ouster

By Armand N. Nocum

WITH ONE single stone – the issue of "prejudgment" – ousted President Joseph Estrada's maverick lawyer wants to hit justices in the country's two top judicial bodies, the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan.

Having used the prejudgment issue to seek the dismissal of plunder charges against his client, lawyer Alan Paguia is now using the same ammunition to seek the disqualification of Sandiganbayan justices hearing Estrada's case.

Yesterday, Paguia filed a motion, asking the three special division justices to "declare themselves disqualified from further hearing the case."

According to the lawyer, Estrada "is convinced that the Honorable Court does not possess the cold neutrality of an impartial judge – an essential ingredient of due process of law."

Paguia cited last Friday's hearing, when Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, the presiding judge, "used foul language."

The lawyer had suggested that the Sandiganbayan acknowledge in its decision that the Supreme Court had connived with then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust Estrada during Edsa II.

Nazario burst out, "*Ano kami, gago*(Do you think we're stupid)?"

That hearing was for Paguia's motion for reconsideration of an earlier motion to dismiss Estrada's plunder case for lack of jurisdiction.

Paguia has insisted that by attending Ms Macapagal's Jan. 20, 2001 proclamation, the high court magistrates "prejudged the case relative to the validity of the Macapagal government."

Nazario's remark, Paguia said, "was disrespectful, a prejudgment, and there is no more appearance of neutrality." Therefore, he added, "there is . . . clearly a violation of President Estrada's right to due process."

The other members of the special court are Associate Justices Edilberto Sandoval and Teresita Leonardo-de Castro.

Chief Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio quickly dismissed Paguia's move as yet another ploy to set back the July 28 scheduled hearing for the presentation of evidence by defense lawyers.

NPAs slay 8 soldiers in Mountain Province

EIGHT Army soldiers were killed while escorting the body of a slain colleague back to their base after they were ambushed by communist rebels in the Mountain Province yesterday afternoon.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief information officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, confirmed the casualties, but said their identities were not yet available. He also confirmed that one other soldier had been wounded.

Elements of the 71st Infantry Battalion were ambushed by a group of New People's Army rebels in Barangay Talubin, Bontoc at around 3 p.m. Monday, Lucero said, quoting initial reports from the Northern Luzon Command.

"The troops were on their way back to their headquarters in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija after escorting the body of a slain soldier from Bontoc, Mt. Province," Lucero said.

Earlier on the same day, the same group of rebels raided a detachment of the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion in the same barangay, wounding two soldiers.

After a fierce firefight, the guerrillas withdrew, military officials said.

Along the route, the rebels chanced upon and opened fire at the troops from the 71st IB. *TJ Burgonio, Manila, and Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

OFWs seek repatriation after clashes with Bangladeshis

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MAJORITY of 500 Filipinos employed at a Daewoo work site in Libya have asked to be repatriated following violent clashes Thursday with Bangladeshi workers.

About 15 Filipinos were injured as a result of the fighting, the Department of Labor and Employment said.

"Majority of our OFWs decided to be repatriated for fear of another attack...," said DOLE welfare officer Wahab Jaafar in a report.

The DOLE immediately quashed the request to be repatriated, however, saying it would be "too costly" to bring home 500 workers.

2,000 vs 550

The job site is in Wafa, some 800 kilometers from Tripoli. About 2,000 Bangladeshis, 550 Filipinos and 200 Thais worked at the site.

According to the report, the first incident started at around 2:30 a.m. on July 11 when a Bangladeshi worker turned off a television set in the Bangladeshis' mess hall.

This angered some Filipinos who were watching and a fight ensued, resulting in injuries to four Filipinos and three Bangladeshis.

Nationals from both sides then gathered and stones started to fly, prompting the Korean camp boss, Y.T. Kim, to come out and try to pacify them.

But a stone thrown from the Filipino group hit him, with the DOLE report describing the camp boss as "badly hurt."

At 4 a.m., the project manager and some Libyan soldiers arrived and persuaded both groups to return to their quarters.

All-day tension

Tension was high the whole day and at 3 p.m. a meeting was held between representatives of both groups.

No one admitted participating in the clashes, however, but it was at this meeting that the Filipino representative told Daewoo management most of the Filipino workers wanted to return to the Philippines.

Later at 8:30 p.m., a rumor spread that a Bangladeshi had been kidnapped by some Filipinos, prompting a large group of Bangladeshis wielding steel pipes and wooden sticks to attack the quarters of the Filipinos.

Another fight ensued, bringing the total number of Filipinos hurt in the clashes to approximately 15. The fighting was stopped with the arrival of Libyan soldiers.

Singapore finding RP maids too costly

SINGAPORE—Filipino maids in Singapore, already paid less than half their counterparts in Hong Kong, are being replaced with cheaper Indonesians as households struggle with the weak economy, employment agencies said Monday.

Singaporean employers can save about 100 Singapore dollars ($57) a month when they employ an Indonesian maid instead of a Filipino, they said.

"Everybody is worried about the economy. They are trying to cut costs," Genesis Employment Agency owner Fiona Ang said.

Filipino maids are generally paid more in Singapore because of their stronger English skills and because they have strong embassy and labor representation.

Filipino maids are paid about S$320 a month in Singapore, compared with about HK$700 paid to helpers regardless of nationality in Hong Kong.

Unlike Hong Kong, Singapore does not set a minimum wage. But the government collects S$345 a month from every household that employs a maid, dramatically increasing the financial burden.

There are about 140,000 maids in Singapore, with one in seven households employing one. *AFP*

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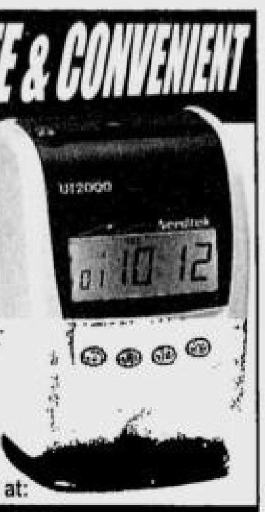

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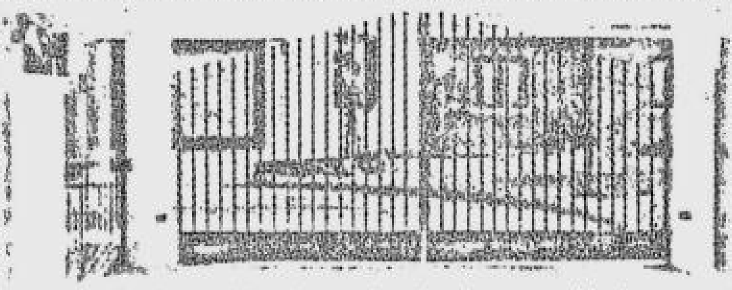

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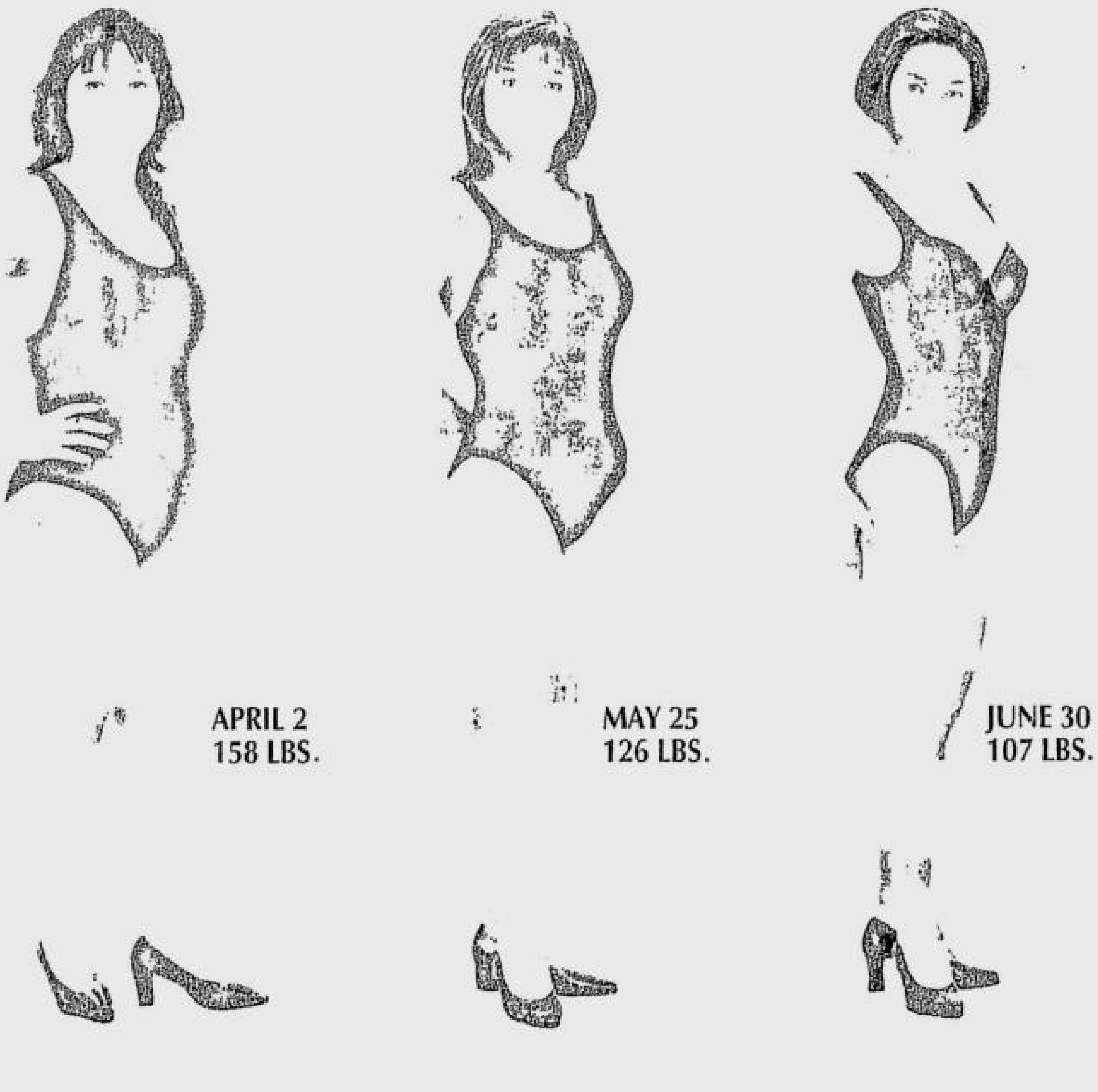

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Former Aussie PM slams Howard over US ties, Iraq

SYDNEY, Australia—As Prime Minister John Howard kicked off an Asian tour in the Philippines, he faced harsh criticism at home Monday from a former prime minister and fellow Liberal Party member who questioned Canberra's relationship with Washington and Howard's reasons for joining the war against Iraq.

Writing in the editorial pages of The Sydney Morning Herald, Malcolm Fraser—prime minister between 1976 and 1983—said the government was too close to the United States and had "unnecessarily" made US enemies its own.

"Some would believe that we are now a completely subservient ally," Fraser wrote. "It is time Australians started to ask what additional interests are we going to forsake in our support of this current American administration."

Howard and his conservative government have doggedly supported the US-led war on terror, sending troops to both Afghanistan and Iraq. And like his counterparts in the United States and Britain, Howard faced criticism last week over the validity of evidence used to justify the war on Iraq.

Fraser said the government must answer questions over its claim that Iraq had sought to buy uranium from Africa, used as evidence to justify the involvement of 2,000 Australian troops in the war on Iraq.

The White House also acknowledged last week that President George W. Bush was wrong when he made the same allegation in his State of the Union address in January.

Australia's foreign ministry and two intelligence agencies said late last week they had known the information was suspect, but claimed they had not passed that on to the administration.

The opposition Labor Party's foreign policy spokesperson, Kevin Rudd, said in a statement Monday that if US and British intelligence officials had known, Australia's embassies in those countries should have been aware and informed the government.

"The role of the two embassies in this is now important in this developing intelligence jigsaw puzzle," he said.

Howard was treasurer for about three years when Fraser was in power, but the two are known to foster different views on a number of issues. Under Howard, the Liberal Party has taken a more conservative turn, compared to the moderate party that Fraser led over two decades ago.

Fraser, who is active in the aid organization Care, has also been a harsh critic of Howard's policies on asylum seekers.

Howard left for Manila Sunday for talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo on regional security threats and anti-terrorism cooperation. Later this week he is scheduled to visit Japan and South Korea. *AP*

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A PHALANX of security guards at the posh RCBC Plaza in Makati City pushes back militants protesting the visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard to Manila. From Paseo de Roxas, the Australian Embassy now holds office at the RCBC building at the corner of Ayala and Gil Puyat avenues.

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GMA on Iraq war . . .

From page A1

"The Central Intelligence Agency director has made it very clear in his statement that there were six reasons that laid the basis for its assessment that Iraq had reconstituted its nuclear capacity and the uranium out of Africa was not one of six considerations. That alone puts the issue into perspective," he said.

Intelligence is an imprecise science like economics, according to Howard. "You have to make judgment and you never prove anything beyond reasonable doubt. That has always been the case and it always will be," he said.

George Tenet, head of the CIA, has taken the blame for allowing Bush to erroneously tell the American people that Iraq had tried to obtain nuclear material from sources in Africa.

Before the war, US President George W. Bush also claimed that then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was harboring top al-Qaida operatives. He even suggested that Iraq could provide the terrorist network with chemicals, biological and nuclear weapons.

Now, two former Bush administration intelligence officials say the evidence linking Saddam to al-Qaida, the group responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was never more than sketchy at best.

A militant fisherfolk group is asking Ms Macapagal and Howard to accept the folly of supporting the US war on Iraq based on faulty intelligence.

"They should apologize for supporting US millennium crimes against the Iraqi people and humanity, atone for their sins and submit themselves to thoroughgoing rectification," the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said in a statement.

Pamalakaya supported Sen. Manuel Villar's proposal to study the possibility of filing an impeachment case against Ms Macapagal for supporting the US war of aggression against Iraq without clear evidence that Saddam was producing weapons of mass destruction. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PROTESTERS try to outflank tight security at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City.

President gags PM

From page A1

managed a hearty chuckle yesterday when Ms Macapagal stopped him from answering a question on whether he was about to urge her to seek a term extension.

One of three Filipino journalists (three others were Australian) pre-selected to participate in a brief question-and-answer portion of the press conference had asked if Howard was inclined to follow other world leaders in persuading her to ...

"I will ask the Prime Minister not to answer that question," the President promptly cut in. "That's local politics."

Although visibly surprised, Howard quickly retorted, laughing, "Oh, can't I?"

Ms Macapagal, Cabinet secretaries, and other Australian officials found the prime minister's mirth quite infectious.

The President has remained firm on her Dec. 30, 2002 decision not to run in next year's polls despite pleadings from advisers and friends, reportedly including the heads of state of Malaysia, South Korea, and the United States.

Apparently fed up with persistent questions on her political agenda, Ms Macapagal issued a cover-all gag order last week to stop even allies, such as former President Fidel V. Ramos and former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, from further feeding speculations.

As far as we know, *they* didn't find this funny.

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Environmentalists rap waste treatment method

By Volt Contreras

ENVIRONMENTALISTS yesterday sought the suspension of government permits issued to two waste management firms that are said to employ a banned method of waste treatment.

Members of Eco Waste Coalition (EWC) went to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to raise ecological and health concerns over pyrolysis, a technology involving the oxygen-free heat treatment of waste materials, which they said was incineration in disguise.

In a dialogue with DENR officials, coalition member Ester Perez de Tagle, representing the group Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, said pyrolysis was but a "repackaged" form of incineration, a method banned under the 1998 Clean Air Act (CAA). Environmental laws in the European Union and the United States have classified pyrolysis as a mode of incineration, she said.

De Tagle's group demanded the suspension of the environment compliance certificates (ECCs) that the DENR granted to Clean Earth Solutions Inc. (CES) and Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWM).

According to the lobbyists, the Texas-based CES obtained an ECC last March for an industrial waste treatment facility in San Pablo City, while the Parañaque-based IWM got its ECC in July 2002 for treatment of biomedical wastes in a facility in Trece Martires City.

DENR Region IV Director Feliciano Guanilla said the two ECCs were granted "partly" on the "endorsements" of the local governments concerned. Environment Management Bureau Director Julian Amador said the firms invested at least P75 million each for the pyrolysis technology.

In the end, Undersecretary Rolando Metin, who spoke on behalf of DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun, agreed with the environmentalists: "You are right, we have to study whether the technology is really safe. We will take a look at the ECCs."

But in an interview after the dialogue, Amador said the DENR officially considered pyrolysis a "non-burn" technology and, as such, was approved under the CAA. He said the method employed an "oxygen-free" chamber for waste treatment, one of the conditions stated in the CAA's Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Navy nabs 21 Vietnamese fishermen off Palawan

By TJ Burgonio

TWENTY-ONE Vietnamese fishermen on board two fishing boats were arrested Friday after being spotted illegally poaching in the waters of southern Palawan, Navy officials said yesterday.

The crew of the Philippine Navy's BRP Quezon spotted the fishermen aboard two Vietnamese-registered vessels 17.4 nautical miles off Fearless Shoal in Palawan, said Cmdr. Geronimo Malabanan, Navy information officer.

Seized from the Vietnamese were nets, hooks and lines, a marine band radio and a global positioning system unit, Malabanan said, but no fish.

The Vietnamese were taken to Puerto Princesa City where they were to be charged with illegal entry and poaching, Malabanan said.

The Navy also arrested 21 Vietnamese for illegal entry and poaching off Fearless Shoal last May.

In another development, the Philippine Navy seized some 120 undocumented second-hand motorbikes found on two fishing boats in Magsingal, Ilocos Sur on Thursday, Malabanan said.

The crew of Navy vessel DF340 confiscated the motorbikes from fishing boats Rojemark and Mark Joshua whose crew members could not show a permit to transport the motorbikes.

The bikes were allegedly owned by a Botong Torrecer of Poro Pinget in Magsingal, a coastal town in Ilocos Sur.

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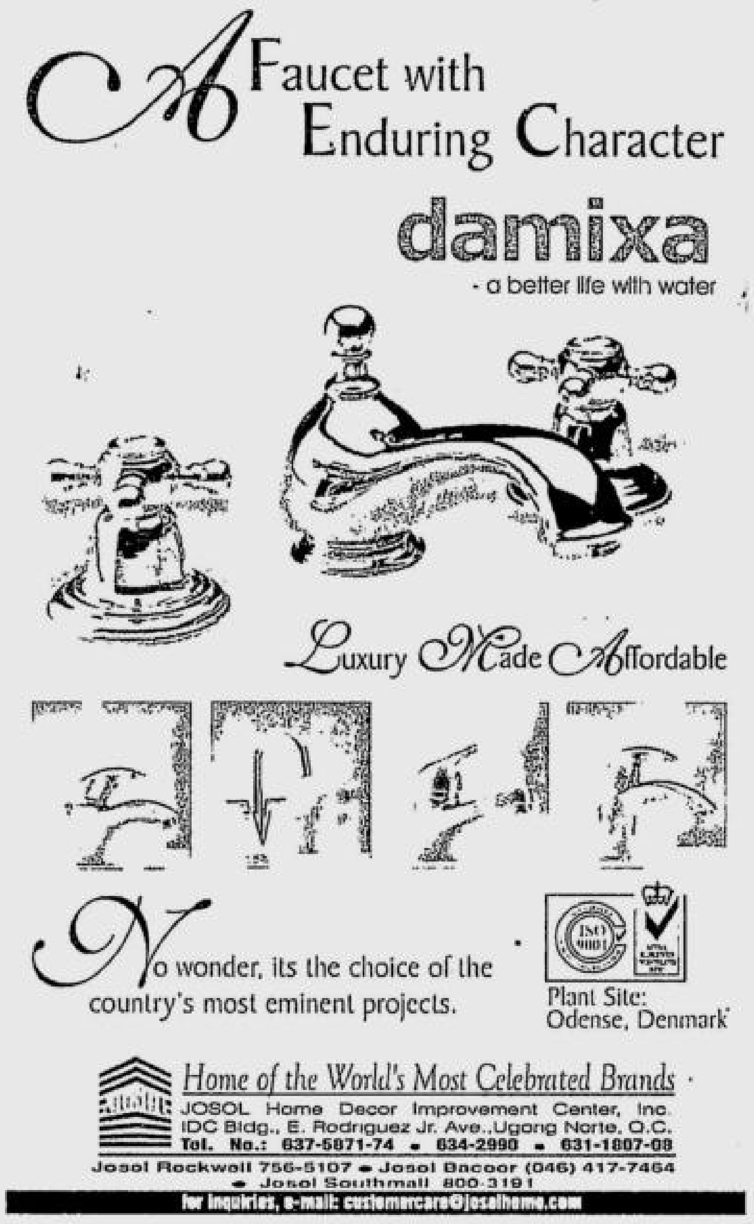
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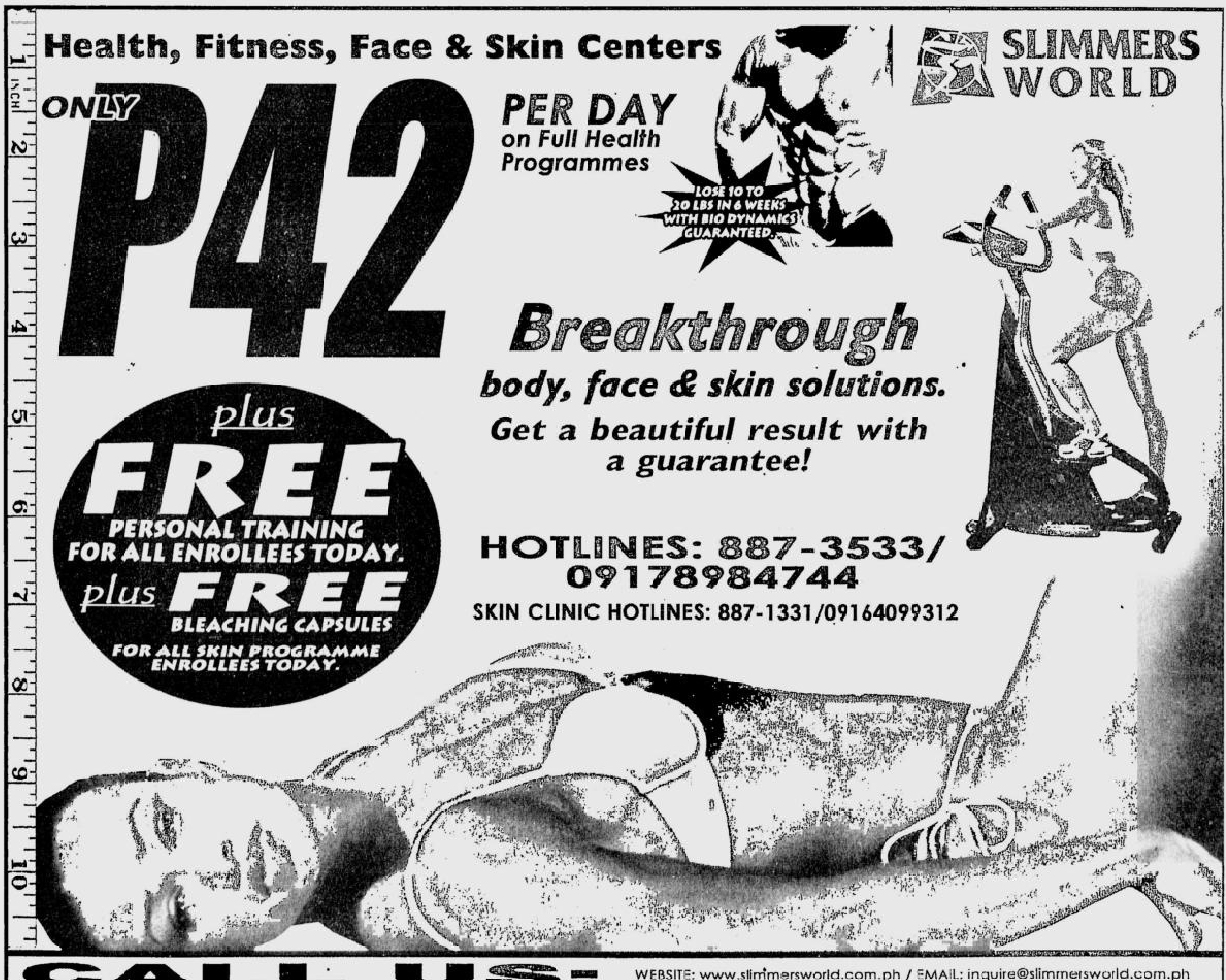
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No criminal charges vs Danding, says lawyer

From page A1

al Estelito Mendoza said at a press conference.

Mendoza said Cojuangco did not use the coco levy fund in acquiring 7.2 percent of UCPB shares. "All this talk about charges, like plunder. This has no meaning," he said.

"You must remember Mr. Cojuangco did not use the coco levy funds because he was the one who sold the shares to the PCA (Philippine Coconut Authority). If anyone used the funds, it was the PCA," Mendoza said.

But Commissioner Victoria Avena of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said criminal charges could be lodged against Cojuangco, noting that the Sandiganbayan ruling "shows that there was misappropriation of public funds.

"That element of malice and criminal intent is already established. That is now on record," Avena said.

The government wants to revive the graft case against Cojuangco while former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez is seeking the filing of plunder charges against the San Miguel chair.

But PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said it would not be easy to revive graft cases against Cojuangco. Carranza feared that former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had dismissed the graft complaint the PCGG filed against Cojuangco in the 1990s.

Status of graft cases

The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed eight of the nine graft cases filed against Cojuangco and other Marcos cronies for the misuse of coco levy funds.

Avena found this out yesterday after checking records in the wake of calls to revive the criminal aspect of the coco levy cases.

She could not say when the cases were dismissed. But she said there was still a chance to revive them as the 15-year prescription period had not lapsed.

Among those dismissed was the graft case (OMB 90-2809) against Cojuangco et al. for illegally acquiring UCPB with the coco levy funds.

It was filed before the Ombudsman in 1990 "but dismissed we don't know when," said Avena. Nearly all the graft cases were filed before the Ombudsman in 1990.

Of the eight dismissed cases, the PCGG was only able to save two cases by appealing before the Supreme Court. The SC ordered the Ombudsman to file the cases with the Sandiganbayan based on the evidence given by the PCGG.

Conrado Vasquez was the Ombudsman from May 12, 1988 to May 12, 1995. Aniano Desierto took over from Aug. 4, 1995 to Aug. 4, 2002. Simeon Marcelo replaced Desierto last October.

Avena, who joined the PCGG in June 2001, went over the records of the coco levy cases with an assistant at the start of the interview yesterday.

Asked if they could still file a graft case on SMC, she replied, "We will. As I said ... We'll try to search for it."

Based on PCGG records, the dismissed graft cases against Cojuangco et al. were:

- OMB 90-2805 for diverting P5 million in PCA funds to former First Lady Imelda Marcos' Philippine Youth Health and Sports Center. It was filed in 1990 and dismissed by the Ombudsman in 1992.

"We don't know if we've appealed this," said Avena.

- OMB 91-0330 for diverting P10 million in PCA funds to the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It was filed in 1991 and dismissed in 1994. The PCGG has no data what happened to after.
- OMB 90-2810 for using coco levy funds for United Coconut Oil Mills' P495-million capitalization. Cojuangco allegedly used Unicom to monopolize the oil refining industry. The PCGG has no record when it was filed and dismissed.
- OMB 90-2812 for using coco levy funds to acquire oil mills. It was filed 1990 but the date of dismissal is not known.
- OMB 90-2813 versus Cojuangco for using coco levy funds to settle his anti-trust lawsuit in the United States. The case, filed in 1990, was dismissed on June 7, 1997.

The only case filed with the Sandiganbayan was Criminal Case 22017 to 22018 involving the alleged diversion of at least P6 million in PCA funds.

The two other "active" graft cases are:

- The misappropriation of nearly P1 billion to Cojuangco's Agricultural Investors Inc. (AII) for a mothballed coconut seed garden project on Bugsuk Island, Palawan. The island is owned by Cojuangco. The Ombudsman dismissed it but upon the PCGG's appeal but the high court ordered the Ombudsman to file the charges.
- The illegal purchase of P9.6 billion worth of 16 oil mills. The SC last October ordered the Ombudsman to revive the case, which it dismissed on June 2, 1997.

Lame excuse

"It's a limp and lame excuse on the part of the government to express difficulty in reviving or refiling the criminal charges," Chavez said.

He said the evidence to pin down Cojuangco and his co-accused had been in the hands of the PCGG since the time of then President Corazon Aquino.

"The evidence is there," said Chavez who initiated charges against Cojuangco and other Marcos cronies when he was solicitor general during the Aquino administration.

He said the most glaring evidence against the Cojuangco group was the fact that the Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation Inc. (Cocofed), on behalf of Cojuangco, advanced money to purchase the shares of the First United Bank (FUB), which was later renamed UCPB.

"The money used to buy these FUB shares ... and many other transactions came from coco levy funds. As simple as that," Chavez said.

The Sandiganbayan ruled on Friday that Marcos' Presidential Decree No. 755, which allowed Cojuangco and Cocofed to use the Coconut Consumer Stabilization Fund to acquire FUB, was unconstitutional.

The court then nullified the transfer of FUB shares of stocks to Cojuangco in 1975, and declared the stocks "conclusively owned by the Republic of the Philippines."

Two agreements

Mendoza explained that the Sandiganbayan decision dealt only with the two May 1975 agreements that led to the creation of the UCPB.

One involved Cojuangco's purchase of 137,666 shares of the Cojuangco family—including that of former President Corazon Aquino and her husband Ninoy—in FUB.

The other was the PCA's "contemporaneous" purchase "at the same price" of these shares from Cojuanco," Mendoza said.

The result was 65 percent of the new UCPB shares were distributed to more than one million coconut farmers while Cojuangco got 7.22 percent for facilitating the transaction.

"So all of these news reports that Mr. Cojuangco lost 72.2 percent (of UCPB shares) is incorrect. The ones who lost 65 percent of the shares are the coconut farmers. What he lost is the profit he made in the transaction," Mendoza said.

Cojuangco said he "never claimed 70 percent of any of those shares. You can check all court records, I have never claimed it."

He lamented that coconut farmers rather than himself were the bigger losers in the Sandiganbayan decision.

"It's sad. We worked hard so that the farmers could enjoy the funds. Because of the court ruling, I think the fund will go to the government, not the farmers," Cojuangco said in Filipino.

Mendoza said that the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco should not have gotten 7.22 percent of UCPB shares because he did not invest any money in the business deal.

"In effect, it said he was not entitled to make profit because he did not invest any a mount of money," Mendoza said.

He said the Sandiganbayan also noted that Cojuangco bought the FUB shares using PCA money.

"The shares were purchased by PCA contemporaneously with Mr. Cojuangco's purchase of the FUB shares. The money he used to pay Pedro Cojuangco (for the FUB shares) is the same money (he got from PCA)," Mendoza said.

"So, (the Court) said he was not entitled to make a profit because he did not put in any money and so because of that, these shares belong to the government," Mendoza added.

He said this case should have been decided long ago because it was filed in 1987. But he said the government filed for a motion of partial summary judgement only last year.

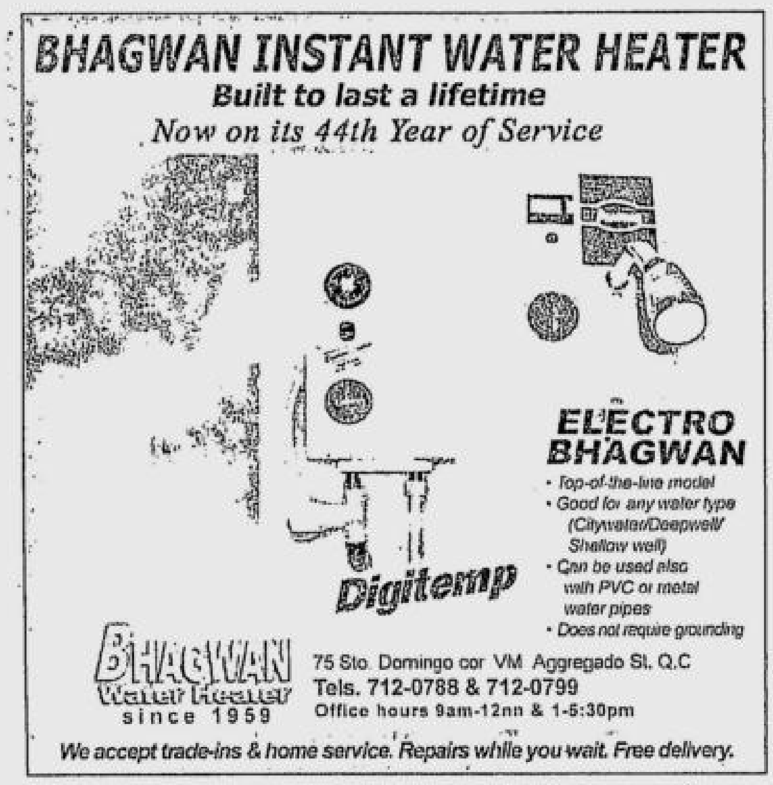
He said that he might appeal the ruling and that it might take a long time before it became final and executory.

"This is going to take longer. We'll have a trial on the balance. Then maybe there will be an appeal," he said.

Mendoza also pointed out that if the courts decided with finality that the fund belonged to the government, then it should be part of the general fund that only Congress could disburse.

In a radio interview, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the proposal of Chavez to slap Cojuangco with plunder would not happen immediately because due process must be observed.

"From this decision of the Sandiganbayan, we know that the other party has the right to file for a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan and they can even directly appeal to the Supreme Court. So we have to wait for the process," Bunye said. ***With reports from Elena R. Torrijos, AFP and Juliet Labog-Javellana***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Danding to fight SMC takeover

From page A1

coco levy funds and which in turn holds a 27-percent stake in SMC.

"Probably it will have an impact but will not have a controlling consequence because the situation of San Miguel is different from this case," Mendoza said.

At present, Cojuangco also claims a 20-percent stake in SMC but this has also been disputed by the government and a civil case on it is pending with the Sandiganbayan as well.

Earlier yesterday, Ruben Carranza, commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, ruled out the possibility of a compromise with Cojuangco over the issue.

The PCGG is an independent agency formed to search out illegally acquired wealth during the 20-year Marcos regime.

"We are optimistic that just like the decision late Friday, the court will recognize the public nature of the funds that were used (to acquire the shares) and the ill-gotten character (with) which Cojuangco and his fellow defendants continue to hold on to the San Miguel shares," Carranza said on television.

Asked if the government was willing to compromise with Cojuangco, he said: "There is no sense, no logic, no reason to enter into a kind of compromise.

"That would ... be unlawful," Carranza said, stressing that Friday's ruling on the public nature of the coconut levy funds "is already a very decisive court decision in favor of the government." He said PCGG officials would meet this week "to discuss the implications of the decision insofar as the representation in San Miguel is concerned.

"If there is going to be any disposition of the government stake in San Miguel, it should be and justly have to be a 47-percent stake rather than just 27 or 20 percent," he said.

San Miguel took a beating at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, with its A shares down P2 at P52 and the B shares, which are open to foreign investors, also closing P2 lower at P60.

Analysts said they expect the issue to hound San Miguel in the coming days.

"We're likely to see San Miguel shares remain weak pending the outcome of the ownership battle. Investors are worried because the line between the public and private sectors is being crossed again," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

"Investors are uncertain about the continuity of current management (in San Miguel)," added Andrew Long of ATR-Kim Eng Securities.

Raul Concepcion, CEO of Concepcion Industries, has asked the government to avoid hyping its recent victory.

"Rightly or wrongly," the Sandiganbayan decision on the coco levy will have far reaching effects on business, according to Concepcion.

"The ruling could impact not only on UCPB and San Miguel, but also on other companies whose ownership has been questioned in the past," he said at a briefing.

Concepcion asked the government to first finish its investigation of UCPB's loan portfolio before making disclosures, saying that premature judgment on the issue could send the wrong signal to local and foreign investors.

He said the issue could force businessmen to put off investments until after the May 2004 national elections.

"Because of its sensitivity, those auditing the books of UCPB should work diligently before making public disclosures on the bank's finances so that the reputation of reputable borrowers may not be unduly and unfairly tarnished," he said.

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo Cojuangco listens as his lawyer Estélito Mendoza waves a document during a press conference at the Manila Pavilion in Manila. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Sandiganbayan ruling was not politically motivated.

"After 17 years, how can anybody claim that this is politically motivated? The decision is long overdue and in a country where there is an election every three years, when else will it happen that would not be suspected as politically motivated?" he asked.

"The decision gives a stronger basis that the San Miguel shares are also public. The courts must also rule on the San Miguel issue. The government's game plan is to privatize whatever shares the courts would decide belong to the government," said the finance chief.

Camacho said it was too early to think about selling the 72.2 percent in UCPB as the bank had yet to complete its rehabilitation. The financially ailing institution had to run to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. for a P20-billion infusion to stay afloat.

About 94 percent of UCPB is sequestered. *With reports from AFP, Philip Tubeza, Elena R. Torrijos, Michelle V. Remo and Clarissa S. Batino*

SMC workers hit layoffs

By Martin P. Marfil

WORKERS of San Miguel Corp., including those from its subsidiaries, yesterday started an overnight picket-vigil at the Department of Labor and Employment in Intramuros, Manila to protest mass layoffs in the company.

The workers came from several SMC subsidiaries such as Cosmos Bottling Corp., Monterey Farms, Campo Carne and Ginebra San Miguel.

Holding streamers, including one which said "Danding Cojuangco, *ganid sa tubo,*" speakers took turns lambasting Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas whom the Kilusang Mayo Uno described as a "coddler" of violators of workers' rights.

Cojuangco is the chair and chief executive officer of San Miguel.

Manny Galingana, treasurer of the Ilaw at Buklod ng Manggagawa-SMC chapter, said 28 workers were laid off from the Metal Closure plant in Laguna and 84 were forced to retire from San Miguel's Valenzuela plant. In addition, 188 warehouse workers are being threatened with layoffs.

Galingana said the 188 were workers in three Metro Manila warehouses, which had been emptied of products and equipment last week.

Management, he said, had denied that the warehouses were to be closed, but workers were asking how they could work without the products and equipment. "There is a possibility the warehouses would be closed down," Galingana said.

Several other SMC firms are experiencing labor problems. These include the La Tondeña plant in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan; La Tondeña in Cabuyao, Laguna; Cosmos in Canlubang, and the Campo Carne plant, which was taken over by Purefoods, another Cojuangco-linked firm.

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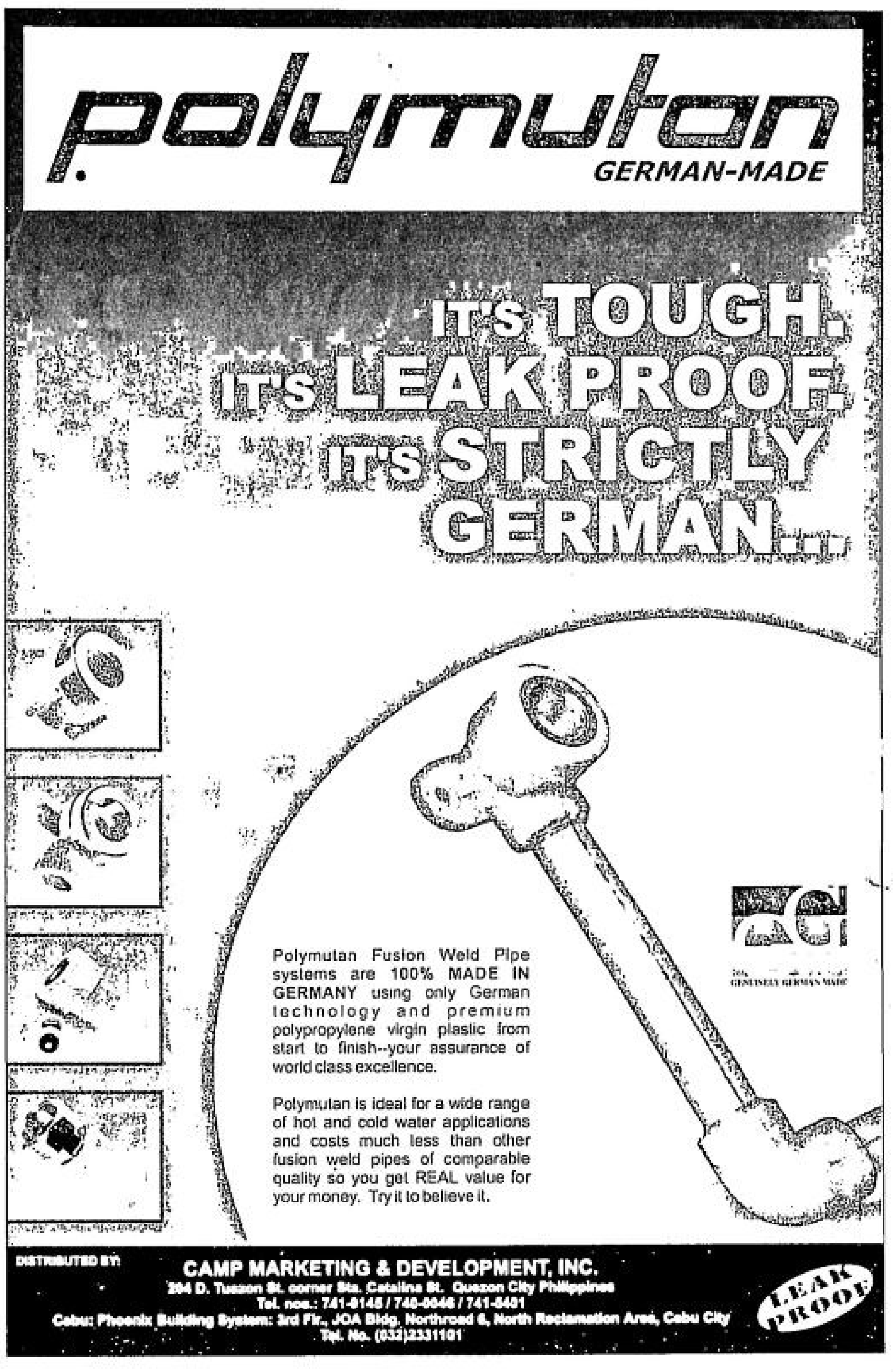

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LEAK PROOF

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 15, 2003
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 2:1-15
Gospel: Mt 11:20-24

Jesus began to denounce the cities in which he had performed most of his miracles, because the people there did not change their ways, "Alas for you Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I assure you, for Tyre and Sidon it will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead! For if the miracles which were performed in you had taken place in Sodom, it would still be there today! But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Commentary

His lectures were always interesting and relevant. He had such an enthusiasm you felt he loved not only learning but every learner. His examinations were always very difficult but no student ever found it right to complain. They seemed just a way of appreciating what he gave not only of his mind but of himself, making each one of us better prepared for life. Judgment is just a reckoning of how we appreciate the miracles that happen in and around us everyday, miracles that are God's gift of himself: his love, goodness, beauty, generosity, faithfulness. Albert Einstein who gave so much of himself to humankind once said, "There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

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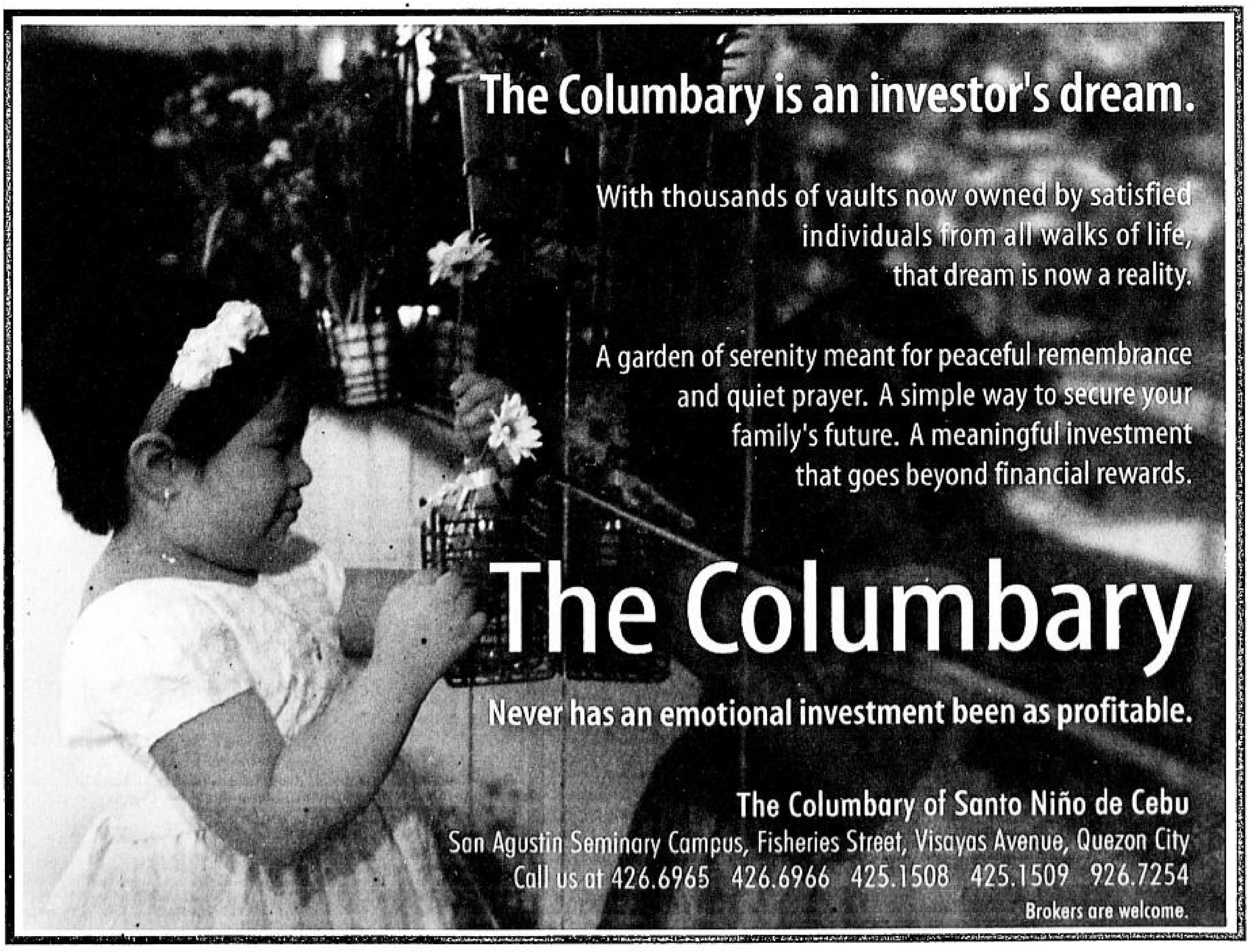

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Reprieve

IT is well that Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Concerned Citizens against Pollution have agreed on a "truce" with regard to the trees on Katipunan Avenue while waiting for a court ruling on the Cocap's petition for a temporary restraining order. The truce at least gives the decades-old trees a "stay of execution."

We hope that the court will eventually issue not just a temporary but a permanent restraining order. Given Fernando's stubbornness, we expect him to go full blast in uprooting the trees once the temporary restraining order is lifted.

Annie Lou Cruz, one of the concerned citizens of Quezon City, complained that the MMDA decided on a tree-less Katipunan without consulting its stakeholders. She said: "Taking out this landscape from Katipunan is like depriving us of our right to clean air....[Fernando] should have considered the culture and character of the place as a school zone where trees are valued for their cooling, beautifying and air-cleansing effects."

Several universities and colleges with big student populations are located near Katipunan Avenue. They include the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College. The removal of the islands and the trees would leave pedestrians, most of them students, more exposed to high-speed highway traffic.

Cruz said the traffic islands and the trees were being "made to pay" for the perennial traffic jam on Katipunan. The real causes, she said, are undisciplined drivers, poor traffic management, lax enforcement of rules, ambulant vendors and defective traffic lights, among other things.

We do hope that Fernando for once would seriously consider the concerned citizens' objection to the plan to uproot the trees on Katipunan Avenue. He would do well to carefully weigh the great harm that the removal of the trees would cause to the people and the environment as against the benefits that it would give to traffic flow.

Endangered species

IN CITIES cities and other urbanized areas, trees are becoming an endangered species. They are bulldozed to give way to new subdivisions, commercial buildings and golf clubs. They are removed so that avenues and streets can be widened. Owners of private houses uproot them so that they can expand their buildings.

These destroyers of the environment are quick to trade in the priceless value of trees for the immediate lure of financial profit or for an easy fix to certain problems, such as traffic congestion. Have they forgotten that trees not only provide shelter, homes and food for people and animals but also help to cleanse the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen?

Trees absorb pollution, prevent soil erosion, reduce glare, enhance recreational areas and protect against cancer-causing ultraviolet rays. They turn idle and vacant areas into playgrounds, serve as teachers, identify communities, provide jobs and give people creative and spiritual inspiration.

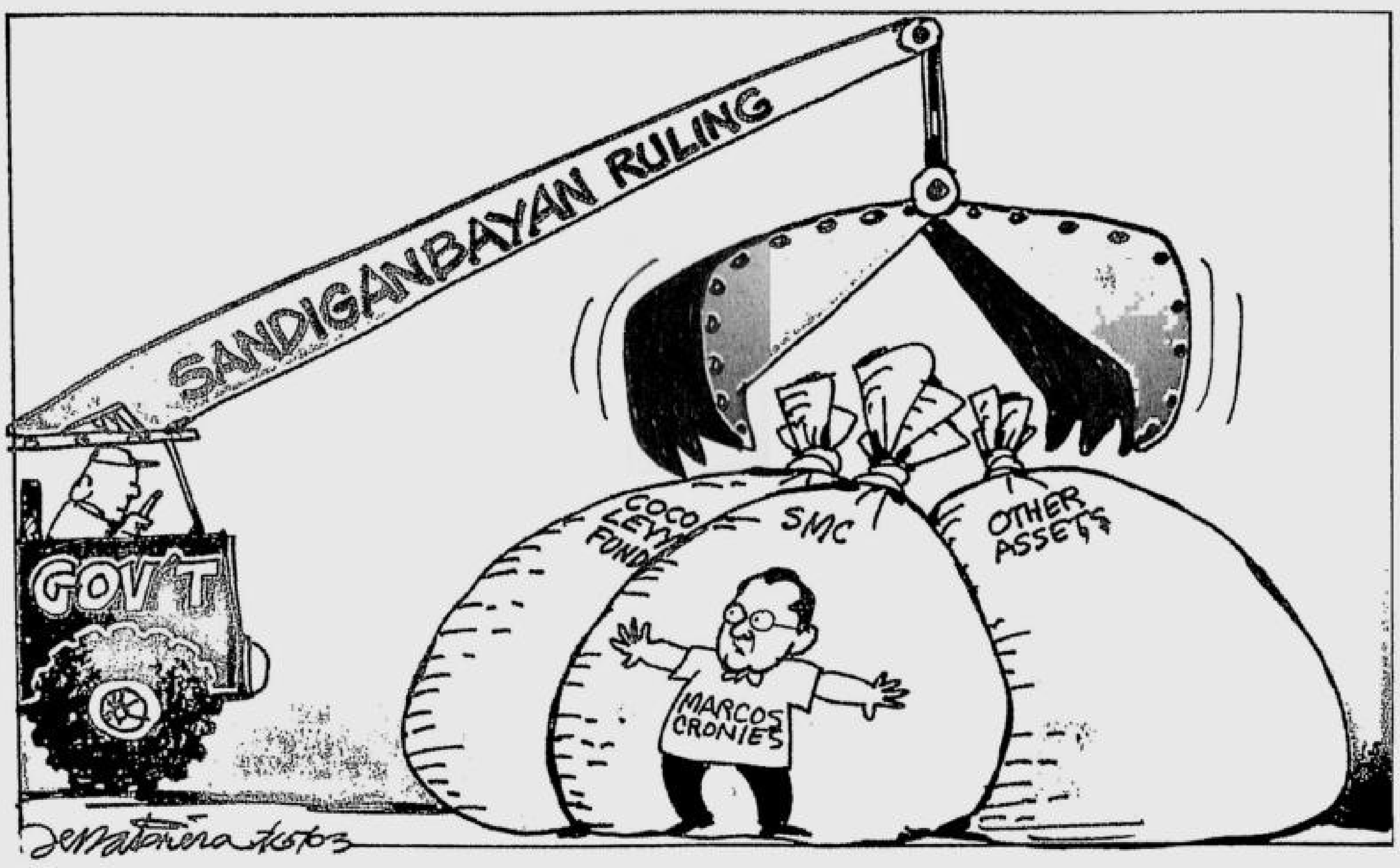
In a metropolis like Metro Manila, trees can produce enough oxygen to "dilute" the carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide given off by motor vehicles and factories. Two mature trees can produce enough oxygen for 20 people in a year.

Trees provide shade; their cooling effect reduces energy use in houses and buildings. They provide habitats, food and "green corridors" for animals. Trees also help reduce noise pollution by providing a dense barrier of sound-deadening vegetation. They provide an ideal environment for study and contemplation in an academic community.

A number of studies document the social benefits of trees. In the United States, a study showed that shoppers are willing to pay as much as 10 percent more for goods and services if businesses are located in tree-lined streets. Property values can be 10 to 15 percent higher in green areas. Research has also shown that residential areas with a lot of trees have fewer property crimes and violent crimes.

Trees improve the physical and mental health of human beings. They relieve mental fatigue. Trees reduce carbon dioxide and trap dust, making the air easier to breathe. Research has also shown that an environment with trees can reduce human stress and recovery time for hospital patients.

Considering all the benefits that trees give to people and communities, we hope that MMDA Chair Fernando would reconsider his plan to remove the trees on Katipunan Avenue. Surely there are other alternatives that would ease traffic on that busy avenue.



Two important court decisions clarified

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TWO recent landmark court decisions should be clarified. First, the en banc Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the absentee voting law is not unanimous. Only 9 of the 15 justices voted in favor; four dissented, and two were not able to vote (one was abroad and the other, Dante Tinga, was just recently appointed to the Court).

Election law expert Romulo B. Macalintal is hopeful that these two would join the four dissenters in resolving his motion for reconsideration. Then only two justices from those who sided with the majority would have to be convinced that the absentee voting law is unconstitutional.

If the majority opinion is upheld, Makalintal said, we face a "grotesque situation where our future president or other elective officials might be permanent residents of the United States of America or other foreign countries. This is so because once they become qualified voters, they also become qualified to run for public office."

And when the dual citizenship law is passed, another queer and absurd situation might happen: our future president or other elective officials may not only be permanent residents of the United States but also American citizens.

Another thing that must be clarified is that the 13 justices who deliberated on Makalintal's petition unanimously agreed with his argument that it was a violation of the Constitution when Congress provided in the absentee voting law that the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Commission on Elections has to be reviewed and approved by the joint congressional oversight committee.

The justices were also unanimous in agreeing with Makalintal that the Comelec's power does not include the canvassing of votes and the proclamation of winning candidates for president and vice president since such power is within the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress. So Makalintal actually half-won and half-lost that case.

The other court decision that should be clarified is that dismissing the petition of a group of lawyers to stop show-biz people who have been elected to government positions, from continuing with their show-biz jobs while at the same time occupying and receiving public funds as salaries.

The petition was dismissed not on the merits but on a technicality: that the lawyers' group is not the right party to file such petition. So the petition can still be re-filed by the right party, and hopefully upheld by the court. If lawyers are banned from practicing their profession while in public office, why should show-biz folk be exempted from the same prohibition?

* * *

After the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government made separate but similar findings that the contract to build Naia Terminal 3 is null and void, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo should follow up with two urgent tasks:

1. Prosecute erring public officials and private individuals who conspired in foisting a graft-ridden airport project on the Filipino people;

2. Take steps to possess, control and operate Terminal 3.

While Piatco has filed a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision that voided its contracts to build Terminal 3, this should not slow down the government in prosecuting those involved in the graft-ridden project.

The President has already directed Dario Rama of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate the Piatco case and submit his findings to Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong for prosecution. The two officials should waste no time in finding out who in Piatco and its partner in the German firm Fraport should be held liable for violating the Anti-Dummy Law as well as allegations of bribery and graft in connection with the construction of Terminal 3. And Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople should already work on bringing here for prosecution foreigners who may have violated our laws.

By doing so, our government will send clear signals to the international community that it will not tolerate violations of Philippine laws, whether by Filipinos or by foreigners.

Running after grafters will also reduce the amounts wasted on bribery by foreign investors. A study made by the Asian Development Bank estimated that $43 million is paid annually as bribes by businessmen—in exchange for favorable concessions. Instead of being channeled to capital investments, this huge sum goes into the pockets of a few corrupt officials.

The Ombudsman should therefore clamp down hard on public officials and private individuals who violate the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. While Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has inhibited himself from cases involving Piatco, he has passed on the responsibility to Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Vic Fernandez.

Fernandez, too, should act with dispatch in prosecuting those liable for Naia Terminal 3. Fernandez does not have to look far. There are signatures on contract documents. There are minutes of meetings approving the same. There are letters which have become public. All these constitute prima facie evidence on criminal acts in connection with the Terminal 3 project, who conspired to cheat the government and the Filipino people, and who would have benefited from these odious transactions.

The government should act on the Piatco graft case with the same zeal it has displayed in the war against drugs.

Giant step

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ERNESTO Maceda says the timing of the Sandiganbayan's ruling taking away Danding Cojuangco's share in the United Coconut Planters Bank in favor of government is suspicious. "It is suspicious because the ruling came out when there has been a lot of publicity about Danding's candidacy, when he has been going around the country to test the waters." Only the Macapagal administration, he says, "has the motivation" to force the Sandiganbayan to make a ruling like that.

Well, Maceda may be the best person to spot duplicity, but he is not the best person to complain about it. He is the epitome of duplicity, a survivor of all the governments from Marcos to Erap. Other people will have different words for survivor. He it is who has always managed, courtesy of the forgetfulness of this country, to reinvent himself, often in the most radical ways. He was the one whom the best mayor of Manila, Arsenio Lacson, called "so young and so corrupt" yet who turned turned himself into the scourge of the corrupt as "Mr. Exposé."

Why he should think GMA would be particularly anxious to torpedo Cojuangco's presidential bid at this point, however, only he can say. This has nothing to do with the fact that GMA may not be running at all—that is a foregone conclusion. This has to do with the fact that the surveys at least say Cojuangco is not the one GMA has to fear. Raul Roco is. Of course, you cannot rule out the battiness of the people surrounding GMA. They have lost all touch with reality.

Quite apart from that, Cojuangco's presidential bid remains iffy. What is suspicious is that he is floating the idea while Haydee Yorac is busting her chops to recover his ill-gotten wealth. It is far less that Malacañang is torpedoing Cojuangco's efforts to become president by muscling the Sandiganbayan than that he is torpedoing the PCGG's effort to recover his ill-gotten wealth by running for president. By doing the latter, he can always claim persecution at government's hands when the PCGG hounds him with zeal. Which is what he's doing now.

But whether one or the other, who cares? The Sandiganbayan's decision is long overdue. Corazon Aquino should have done something about the coco levy money long ago, at least long before her cousin had a chance to use the great washing machine known as the National Amnesia to launder his image. Indeed, long before her brother found it in his heart to reconcile with a now refurbished, respectable and very rich cousin. What Cory should have done, of course, was to bear down on the courts to expedite the case, not for them to rule one way or the other. The latter would have been a violation of the separation of powers. There was a preponderance of evidence to suggest the verdict anyway, not least of them Cojuangco's flight from the country after Edsa. The law is very clear on what flight means.

Yorac has every reason to crow: it's a vindication of her efforts. As indeed the long and often seemingly hopeless efforts of the coconut farmers to find restitution. What makes Cojuangco's plunder particularly cruel is that it was done off the backs of dirt-poor farmers. How dirt-poor they are you'll know if you go to any one of the places lining up the South Road. Most farmers are still astonished by the sight of money as if it holds the most magical properties. They were the ones who paid for the coconut levy, which was really nothing more or less than the kind of exaction the Sheriff of Nottingham made on peasants during Robin Hood's time. That is by no means metaphorical, that is literal. It was that archaic, it was that tyrannical.

None of the cruelty is made up for by the fact that Cojuangco turned out to be a better manager than the other Marcos cronies. The only ones who can possibly care about that are the shareholders of San Miguel Corp. and the other companies Cojuangco used the coconut farmers' money to buy. Not the people, and certainly not the coconut farmers.

The significance of the ruling goes beyond giving unto the coconut farmers what is the coconut farmers', it is giving justice to a country Cojuangco wronged. If the money Cojuangco used to buy United Coconut Planters Bank was not his, then he stole it. That is an inescapable conclusion. Frank Chavez is right there: The next step is to hale Cojuangco to court. The next step is to charge him criminally, possibly with a case of plunder as well. If Erap can be charged with it, why not him? There is no statute of limitations on thievery.

I've only one caveat here, which is making sure that the money goes to its owners. I say this because in this country "recovering ill-gotten wealth" seems an end in itself. In fact, it is just the means to an end. We want to recover ill-gotten wealth so that we can return it to the people. The second rarely gets to happen in this country. Or indeed to be contemplated at all. The government that comes after the thieving one is eager to recover what has been stolen only so its officials can pocket it themselves. That was true of Cory's time, Cory's Kamaganak Inc. being exceptionally anxious to recover the wealth Marcos stole so they could steal it themselves. And steal it epically they did, or whatever it was they managed to get back.

Simeon Marcelo is right. The war isn't over, and it is so in more ways than he contemplates. The government has managed to win a significant battle in the war to recover Cojuangco's ill-gotten wealth. The rest of the war isn't just winning the other battles to wrest control of Cojuangco's holdings bought with coco levy money. The other half of that war is making sure the recovered wealth does not line Mike Arroyo's and his friends' pockets.

Or merely find its way into GMA's campaign kitty.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

GMA very determined in drug war—Lina

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I WAS invited to the Manila Overseas Press Club's "DILG Night" with Interior Secretary Jose Lina as guest by Rolando Estabillo, PAL vice president for corporate communications, who chaired that event. I'm glad I went, for in the ensuing Q/A portion with the media, many interesting facets about the administration's current campaign against drugs were revealed that normally don't get into the news.

For instance, Lina was asked why this drive is being done now. The inference was that it could be targeting Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a declared presidential candidate whose name has been implicated with drug-trafficking in Senate hearings. Lina explained that it's not a "new war," but only "an intensified war" and that the President has succeeded in pushing Congress to pass RA 9165, the Anti-Drug Law, which has revitalized the Dangerous Drugs Board, the lead agency, with the membership now expanded to 11 Cabinet members directly under the Office of the President. Make no mistake about it, said Lina, this President is "very determined" to crack down on drugs. The DILG chief stressed that the new law is much tougher "with no more gray area" and makes any illegal drug selling punishable by life imprisonment to death.

* * *

Lina said that drugs seized must be examined within 24 hours, and a criminal case must be filed against the apprehended party within 72 hours, and during that time the judge must make an ocular inspection. Moreover, says Lina, police who don't attend hearings and judges and fiscals who bungle the law are both punishable by 12 years imprisonment. On the other hand, planting of evidence is also punishable by death.

But during the Q/A, as journalist Tony Lopez began indulging in the splitting of hairs he has come to be known for, Lina got somewhat confused over provisions, and it became evident that there is more need to carefully study RA 9165. Lina gamely stressed that all the agencies concerned will undergo a badly needed seminar on it.

More on the anti-drug campaign later.

* * *

Supporters of Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco, notably Sen. Edgardo Angara, have criticized the timing of the Sandiganbayan's recent ruling stripping their candidate of control of the United Coconut Planters Bank. Angara was quoted as saying that the court's decision was "suspect," coming after Cojuangco had indicated plans to join the 2004 race. This only shows that the administration is "vindictive" as he was not given a chance to clear his name, he added.

Angara doesn't mention, of course, that over the 17 years that the coco levy funds issue has been pending in the courts the government has had a tough time not only because the lawyers of Cojuangco have been skillfully blocking and delaying its recovery moves. These lawyers were also very adept at hiding those coco levy funded assets beneath layers and layers of corporations and interlocking directorates. As an anniversary report of the PCGG early this year on "Significant accomplishments under the Macapagal administration" put it, "…some ill-gotten assets remain hidden, despite years of investigation by the PCGG. That these cases are still pending in court and that some assets might still be outside the reach of the Philippine government are indicative of the sophistication and complexity by which the Marcoses and their cronies amassed their ill-gotten wealth."

Angara certainly knows all the sophistication and complexities of the coco levy investments, for his law firm, Accra, packaged all of them for Cojuangco, and until now that law firm continues to defend him and his group against the interests of the small coco farmers and the PCGG. Perhaps it's time Angara disclosed to the nation how that was done. Time for a mea culpa.

* * *

Cojuangco's lawyers can be expected to file a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan ruling and possibly go up to the Supreme Court. But it is unlikely that the courts will digress from their earlier positions. In fact, analysts are already predicting that with the government recovering the UCPB, it's a matter of time before the 27 percent of San Miguel Corp. shares purchased with UCPB funds by Unicom using 14 holding corporations are recovered. At the moment this SMC bloc is sequestered, but ownership is still undecided. Among those rejoicing over the Sandiganbayan ruling are the various coconut farmers' groups who look at it as one crucial battle won, even though the long war still lies ahead.

* * *

With the ownership issue resolved, UCPB can now move forward with new investors. But what about the political fallout? There is speculation that with this ruling, Lakas and the NPC will part ways and that it will push Cojuangco into running for president. NPC stalwart Ernesto Maceda was quoted saying that the party would consider pushing the impeachment charge in the House against the seven Supreme Court justices accused of violation of the Constitution when they witnessed the swearing in of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January 2001. Some NPC stalwarts have also hinted about a shake-up in the House, which could result in the ouster of Speaker Jose de Venecia when Congress resumes session later this month.

* * *

But at this point, pundits opine that the NPC might not be willing to declare all-out war against the administration, for Cojuangco has more to lose than anyone else in an all-out war. He stands to lose the SMC shares which are the basis of his economic and political power, judging from the way those House members are titillated by the thought of his millions helping fund their campaign. If Cojuangco joins the presidential derby, he has to give up his chairmanship of SMC and in this climate his hold there could be very uncertain.

Truly a man for others

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BACOLOD and the rest of Negros Occidental—indeed, the entire country—will lay to rest today Bishop Antonio Fortich. "He was a great Filipino," declared most everyone whom I encountered on a recent visit to Bacolod. Over lunch with local journalists Mate Espina and Carla Gomez, the INQUIRER's very own "woman in Negros," we traded stories about the bishop, though I mostly just listened to Carla and Mate recount their personal relationships with him, since he had, in the years they spent covering church affairs in the diocese, become something of a father figure to them.

"He touched everyone he met," said Carla, sharing how everyone who dropped by the Bacolod Cathedral to pay their respects "could tell a personal story about the bishop." I saw and heard this for myself Friday evening, as I stood before a display of photos and newspaper clippings on Fortich on the patio of the cathedral. Near me stood a family who, judging from their threadbare clothes, were humble folk. Pointing to a picture of the bishop, the father began talking about him in a warm, intimate manner. I couldn't make out a word of the story told in Ilonggo, but it seemed like the father knew the bishop well, or had at least one memorable encounter with him. "He met with the very rich and the very powerful as well as the very poor and powerless," said Mate, "but he treated everyone the same way, and everyone left him feeling blessed."

A favorite story told by my journalist-friends was how Fortich, then already retired and bishop emeritus of Bacolod, received the presidential candidates during the 1998 elections. "What will you tell Erap when he calls on you?" reporters asked him. "I will give him my blessings and tell him that I am praying for him," the unflappable Bishop Fortich replied. And indeed, that's what he told Erap. "But we later found out that he told the same thing to Rene de Villa and to all the other candidates who called on him!" they recounted, laughing.

* * *

THOUGH he professed what would later be known as "a preferential option for poor," and indeed championed their rights and welfare even if it meant challenging the rich and powerful of Negros as well as the military and political establishment, Fortich also relished being in the center of current affairs.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo informed them that she wanted to be present at the bishop's burial, local church authorities, knowing the President's presence would put a political patina on a religious event, debated on its feasibility. "But they decided that Bishop Fortich would love it," says Carla, "knowing how in life he enjoyed meeting with politicians and talking politics."

What's most remarkable about Bishop Fortich, I believe, is that he didn't allow his convictions and principles, which were certainly rock-hard and which he wasn't at all afraid to articulate or practice, to affect the way he dealt with people. To everyone, even his staunchest critics and those who wished him ill, he was invariably gentle, gracious and, if he truly cared about you, gruff and blunt.

The wide reach of his friendship and influence is most evident in the wreaths that line the walls of the cathedral, bearing expressions of sympathy from politicians, big businessfolk, cooperatives and NGOs, and even from Luis Jalandoni and Connie Ledesma of the National Democratic Front who signed their ribbon "Louie and Connie." He may have been the "Bishop of the Poor," but Bishop Antonio Fortich was, in every sense, a "man for others," regardless of who they were.

* * *

ONE of the most delightful parts of my visit to Bacolod was the assembly of Abanse! Pinay chapters in Bacolod and Negros Occidental. The moment I entered the hall, I could feel the women's energy and enthusiasm wafting toward me, while the red-and-violet ribbons and streamers provided an energizing background.

When I expressed delight at the large number of women assembled at such short notice, Celia Flor, a Bacolod city councilor and valued organizer of Abanse! Pinay in the province, smiled and said many other women were in fact feeling bad that they had not been invited, since there was only a limited budget for the event. I'm confident, however, that there will be many more gatherings as the women gear up for the coming campaign.

After the assembly, Mary Ann Duran Dino, a councilor in nearby Victorias City, brought us to Victorias primarily to take a look at the Women's Center that had been constructed with funding support from Abanse! Pinay through Rep. Pat Sarenas. The center is a sprawling one-story building set in a gracious garden that surely provides a conducive setting for peaceful reflection for women and children survivors of violence.

* * *

FROM THE WOMEN'S Center, Mayor Remedios Bantug took us to a newly constructed plaza behind the city hall that features a fountain topped by a dove of peace. Nearby is a trade and tourism center that features displays of local goods, handicrafts and art works, as well as a refreshment stand that caters to the families and strollers hanging out in the park.

Another point of interest was the Negros Occidental Drug Rehabilitation Center, known as Ang Dalangpan, which was constructed with funds accessed through Sen. Serge Osmeña as well as from city funds, with operating expenses pledged by various local governments in the province. Mayor Bantug and Ms Estrella Solinap proudly recounted that after touring the center, Health Undersecretary Lopez declared it "the best in the country."

After a tour of the mayor's projects, we drove to the Palanca and Bantug family's fishpond for a lovely evening of al fresco dining and impromptu dancing. A most lovely ending to a lovely visit!

Things my mother taught me

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(The following was e-mailed to me by my daughter who obviously remembers her mother's advice; it made her laugh! So much for my pearls of wisdom. She'd be happy to know it was merely passed on from her grandma.)

"My mother was a fanatic about public toilets. As a little girl, she'd bring me in the stall, teach me to wad up toilet paper and wipe the seat. Then, she'd carefully lay strips of toilet paper to cover the seat. Finally, she'd instruct, 'Never, never sit on a public toilet seat.' And she'd demonstrate 'The Stance,' which consisted of balancing over the toilet in a sitting position without actually letting any of your flesh make contact with the toilet seat. But by this time, I'd have gotten wet down my leg. And we'd go home. That was a long time ago. Even now in our more mature years, The Stance is excruciatingly difficult to maintain when one's bladder is especially full. "When you have to go to a public bathroom, you find a line of women that makes you think there's a half-price sale on Mel Gibson's underwear in there. So, you wait and smile politely at all the other ladies, also crossing their legs and smiling politely. And you finally get closer. You check for feet under the stall doors. Every one is occupied. Finally, a stall door opens and you dash, nearly knocking down the woman leaving the stall. You get in to find the door won't latch. It doesn't matter. You hang your purse on the door hook, yank down your pants and assume 'The Stance.'

"Relief. More relief. Then your thighs begin to shake. You'd love to sit down but you certainly hadn't taken time to wipe the seat or lay toilet paper on it, so you hold 'The Stance' as your thighs experience a quake that would register an eight on the Richter scale. To take your mind off it, you reach for the toilet paper. The toilet paper dispenser is empty. Your thighs shake more.

"You remember the tiny tissue that you blew your nose on—that's in your purse. It would have to do. You crumble it in the puffiest way possible. It is still smaller than your thumbnail.

"Someone pushes open your stall door because the latch doesn't work and your purse whams you in the head.

"'Occupied!' you scream as you reach out for the door, dropping your tissue in a puddle and falling backward, directly onto the toilet seat.

"You get up quickly, but it's too late. Your bare bottom has made contact with all the germs and life forms on the bare seat because YOU never laid down toilet paper, not that there was any, even if you had enough time to. And your mother would be utterly ashamed of you if she knew, because her bare bottom never touched a public toilet seat because, frankly, 'You don't know what kind of diseases you could get.'

"By this time, the automatic sensor on the back of the toilet is so confused that it flushes, sending up a stream of water akin to a fountain and then it suddenly sucks everything down with such force that you grab onto the toilet paper dispenser for fear of being dragged to China. At that point, you give up.

"You're soaked by the splashing water. You're exhausted. You try to wipe with a Chicklet wrapper you found in your pocket then slink out inconspicuously to the sinks.

"You can't figure out how to operate the sinks with the automatic sensors, so you wipe your hands with spit and a dry paper towel and walk past a line of women, still waiting, cross-legged and unable to smile politely at this point.

"One kind soul at the very end of the line points out that you are trailing a piece of toilet paper on your shoe as long as the Mississippi River! You yank the paper from your shoe, plunk it in the woman's hand and say warmly, 'Here. You might need this.'

"At this time, you see your spouse, who has entered, used and exited his bathroom and read a copy of 'War and Peace' while waiting for you.

"'What took you so long?' he asks, annoyed. This is when you kick him sharply in the shin and go home.

"This is dedicated to all women everywhere who have ever had to deal with a public toilet. And it finally explains to all you men what takes us so long."

Other noteworthy immortal words of wisdom from my mom included:

(1) Pinch your nose every evening so that it would grow to be aquiline (didn't work).

(2) Never mix drinks. (Ignored up to the point when I woke up one morning after and thought my head would fall off.)

(3) "Nice girls don't smoke." (No comment.)

(4) Make sure your underwear has no holes on it; you never know when you'll meet with an accident.

(5) Don't wear pencil skirts when your behind is completely flat! (Also ignored.)

(6) No matter how pretty or smart you are, there'll always be someone prettier or smarter.

(7) The fate of a plain woman is often envied by a pretty woman.

(8) Never say, of these waters I will not drink.

(9) If you don't stop frowning, your face will freeze and you'll be ugly forever.

(10) Never go out into the sun without an umbrella or headgear; you don't see farmers in bikinis, do you?

(11) If you don't stop showing off how smart you are, no one will ever marry you.

The Pink House

EVERY time a new-comer takes her first step into the premises, we the old residents are on our guard. We make sure she is likeable enough to live with us. She must have the desire and the will to really get along with all of us. And of course she must have the motivation to care for and love the place we call our "other home."

YOUNG BLOOD

Aleja F. Martinez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

When she meets all these conditions, she'll find herself welcomed into a family she cannot help but love. And she will be a part of every occasion and non-occasion there.

In our other home, every birthday is celebrated and every achievement cheered and applauded. Everyone wishes everybody else good luck and God bless with every exam and every quiz she takes and every paper and every requirement she has to make. We heartily laugh in good times and nervously laugh in bad times. We cry during sad times and weep at every heartache. We cheer up everyone who feels homesick, and demand a blow-out from every grade of "*uno*." We give a despedida to every departure, during which cheers and tears and best wishes seem to be the main course rather than the after-curfew, diet-wrecking (albeit very, very welcome) pizza, *pansit*, cake, ice cream and soda.

"We" are an all-female bunch of university students. The place is a boarding house-cum-dormitory on campus. At present, it houses 20 students coming from different provinces in the Philippines.

It used to be a neglected, dilapidated house located in one of the university's residential areas. Thanks to an inside-out beautiful and wonderful lady, the once bush-covered, almost ghastly ruins were turned into a bright, tastefully furnished home. It now stands as a sunshine-filled, divinely clean house which does not only offer a home away from home to residents but also serves as a haven for every student who wants to find some quiet for studying, reading, doing a paper or, on occasion, a venue for group meetings on a school project. For all its homey warmth, this place is also a lively (and admission-free) student center that caters to students from 8 in the morning up to 8 in the evening every day.

It was opened in 1999, and I was one of the lucky 16 sophomore, fresh from the freshman dormitory, who first had the pleasure of living in the place.

The landlady, who painstakingly conceptualized and saw through its reconstruction, is the strongest and most courageous woman I've ever known. She is a university professor whose middle name must be "compassion" and "generosity." Her chosen life is commendable, but her kindness to share it with us is even more priceless.

She and all 16 of us together went through the difficult, first-year of adjustment, when house rules were laid down and gradually modified, until they are found to be fit and best for us. Under Ma'am's guidance, we discovered the intricacies of living together in a real house, semi-independently from our parents. Ours is not the usual sleep-shower-study experience found in most boarding places. More than these, we engage in various activities, both planned and spontaneous, that strengthen our bonds either in our own rooms, the sala, the kitchen, the study area, and even the laundry area.

Ma'am constantly cares for us. After all her efforts to provide us with the cleanest, most conducive and healthiest living place there is, we cannot ask for more. Within the bounds of our agreed house rules, we are given everything we need.

Most of our friends, who are wise enough to appreciate our house rules, envy us for having such a nice, nice place. Of course, they can always move in if they want to. But that is, if they don't mind having their names and contact numbers placed on a long waiting list, and, mind you, that list never runs out of names.

Oh yes, there have been some rough times. Some residents had to leave, while some chose to stay. And new girls kept coming. There have been a few whom the older ones like me considered undeserving of living in the house. And usually they were the ones who did not stay long, or at least not long enough to prove their worth. Those who stayed long enough to touch a heart have developed into better students, better friends, better daughters, better people.

A year after my graduation and four years after I first set foot on the place, I left. I did so not because I was told to, but because I knew it was time for me to leave. I felt I had done all the growing up that I possibly needed to do and gotten all the security and love that I must have to cope with future struggles. It was time for me to give way to another girl, who, like me once, would be needing all the good things that my prized home of four years had to offer. Just like the lady to whom I forever owed all those four years, I couldn't be so selfish as not to share something so wonderful with others. I had my time. Now, it's theirs.

I am now living with two close friends from the same house. Like me, they also graduated from the university, and are pursuing greater opportunities.

In our new house, traces of our old house can be found. We have agreed to adopt most of our old house rules and practices, like garbage segregation, strict cleanliness and a curfew (although we have agreed to be more lenient to each other as far as the last is concerned). Above these rules, our old house's legacy of discipline, sharing, health, beauty, high regard for education, love and friendship, will always remain in our thoughts and will be reflected in our deeds.

Oh yes, the name of the place. Ever since I can remember, the house has always been painted pink, inside and out. Thus, we the pioneer residents coined the term "Pink House" for it. Through our many days and nights together in the house, the name came to mean more than just the color of its paint. For us the name was the sum, the difference, the product and the quotient of everything nice in and about this house, and its past, present and future dwellers. Because of all the warmth and beauty and love, it is a pink house through and through.

Aleja F. Martinez, 22, is a BA Communication Research graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She now works as a researcher and writer in a government office.

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More children's books

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SINCE I wrote about Aklat Adarna's "Batang Katutubo" last week, I thought I may as well go on to promote other local children's books.

As you might have guessed, the reason I'm doing this is all the publicity that's gone around the latest Harry Potter book, "Order of the Phoenix." It is simply amazing that they sold five million copies of the book on the day of the launch alone, thanks to massive promotions, the Internet and, let's face it, a reading culture in England, Canada and other countries.

Just to give you an idea of the differences in scale here, there were 750,000 prepaid orders for the Harry Potter book in Canada alone. That for a country with a population of only 25 million. In Hong Kong, there were 3,000 prepaid orders, again a high figure when you consider that English isn't widely spoken there, and that their population is only 6.5 million, less than Metro Manila's.

In the Philippines, with a population of 80 million, I read that Powerbooks processed something like 1,000 prepaid orders. Of course, the comparison is not totally fair, when you consider language and purchasing power. The book costs more than P1,000 each, and even Filipino adults will rarely shell out that amount for a book of their own.

Most Filipino parents are already hard pressed finding the money to pay for required textbooks. In fact, I suspect the parents' constant complaints about expensive textbooks probably instills, among children, the idea that books are a terrible burden, rather than opening a world of knowledge and discovery.

Despite all these limitations, it is encouraging to see more children's books coming out. Aklat Adarna's selections are astounding and outstanding. Besides the "Batang Katutubo" series, I did want to mention their "Batang Historyador" selection, which are all bilingual, with texts in Filipino and in English. Each of the five booklets in the series deals with a particular historical epoch in the Philippines: pre-colonial, the Spanish, American and Japanese occupation, and pre-martial law.

As with the "Batang Katutubo" series, "Batang Historyador" has Unicef support so the stories weave in themes of children's rights. The story of Diwayen, set in the pre-colonial period, is about a girl who was forced into *alipin* (slave) status because of her parents' debt. She ends up friends with Lunhaw, a *binukot* (a child of a datu). You'll have to find out what happens to this friendship by reading the book, but I thought the story can be a great way of discussing not just pre-colonial history but of the class divide we have today. The parallels between the *alipin* system of the pre-colonial period and our system of domestic helpers today are all too obvious, and using the Diwayen story could be a good way of educating the next generation to be more humane to the household helpers.

The other issues tackled in the four remaining history booklets include the right to an education, child labor, the freedom of expression, and protection in times of armed conflict.

Some of you might be asking, "Shouldn't children's books deal with lighter subjects?" Well, I should point out many classic children's stories and fairy tales from the West were intended as morality stories, warning about the dangers of the world. To give one example, there was Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf. The wolf was actually a metaphor, and you can imagine who little girls were being warned about. Many fairy tales were in fact quite violent and sexual, and if they had been written today, they would have been roundly criticized and banned by religious conservatives.

(Not that the conservatives aren't trying to censor children's books. Conservatives have tried banning Harry Potter books allegedly because they promote witchcraft. In the United States they have tried to ban children's books that feature same-sex couples, for example, or single parents.)

But if I might get back to our children's books, I have to say they are usually non-controversial, while being very educational. Preparing for this article, I checked with one of the National Bookstore branches and was amazed at the variety of children's books that are now produced locally. I should mention Lampara books, many of them revolving around older folk tales and written up by Rene Villanueva.

Then there's OMF Literature Inc. and their Hiyas collection for children. OMF is a Catholic publishing firm, so you have a selection of Bible stories and "Christian Values" productions. Besides these, they have a number of books on health, written by the prolific Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, also known as Tito Doc.

A sample of titles pretty much tells you what they're about: "Nang Maghasik ng Lagim si Lolit Lamok" (When Lolit Mosquito Brings Terror), "Ayan si Bolet Bulate" (There's Bolet the Intestinal Worm). It's not all battles with diseases though. The series, "Mga Kuwento ni Tito Dok" (Stories of Tito Doctor) explain how our bodies work, again with playful titles like "Aray, Nasugatan Ako!" (Ouch, I Cut My Finger!—that's the translation they gave) and "Aba, May Baby sa Loob ng Tiyan ni Mommy" (Wow, There's a Baby in Mommy's Tummy).

All these Hiyas books are bilingual and, as children's books go, can be used for all ages. For younger ones, you can read the books to them, and add your own little subplots and bits and pieces of information. Older ones can manage on their own but you might still want to ask them what they thought, and answer their questions.

Let's not forget children's books can be read by adults as well. I always enjoy browsing through these books. The illustrations and the stories remind me that children are in many ways privileged, being able to read books that allow their imaginations to run free, even as they explore life and the world.

UP will preserve integrity of university land

THIS is in reaction to the letter to the editor of Lucman F. Esmael, president of Bago-Ingud Islamic Foundation in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, last July 8.

Esmael denounced the reports of Neal Cruz and Edson Tandoc Jr. for being "sweeping" and "besmirching…reputations," among other things. He said Abdul Rauf Dimaporo purchased the property form Luis Menor, the predecessor-in-interest of Antonio Pael, and thus claimed that their stay in the arboretum is legal.

For the information of Esmael and the members of his organization, Menor has filed a Complaint-in-Intervention before the Quezon City RTC Judge Rogelio Pizarro, saying that he was never consulted about the case and that the sale was null and void since Dimaporo never made any payment.

Also, the Supreme Court has declared the Pael title, from which Menor claims his title is derived, "a fabrication."

On the other hand, the validity of UP's title over the arboretum has long been upheld by the Supreme Court in several decisions.

It is precisely the modus operandi of deceit and misrepresentation of ownership for monetary gain that prompted the Presidential Task Force Against Professional Squatters and Squatting Syndicates to declare that Dimaporo and all who acted in his name are a squatter syndicate.

UP deeply regrets the demolition on July 3, but from the very onset we had consistently issued warnings to Dimaporo and those who first entered the property on Feb. 22. We even agreed to a 20-day moratorium just in case there was a misunderstanding but had carried out demolitions since then, which should have sufficiently warned the people living in nearby Culiat at that UP fully intended to exert its rights over the property.

The arboretum has been reserved by the UP Board of Regents as a science and technology park. There is a government infrastructure project ready for construction in the area for the scientific study of solid waste treatment. Only the Supreme Court, and not lower courts, can stop a government infrastructure project for which funds are available.

Victims of the syndicate will be be assisted by the task Force (HUDCC office, Atrium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati) through the PAO in prosecuting their claims against Dimaporo who is at large.

The demolition was conducted in a very peaceful manner and we thank God that no one was injured. At present, a PNP detachment has been set up in the area to maintain peace and order.

Again we convey our deepest regrets to those who have been victimized by the syndicate and encourage them to take a second critical look to determine who the real culprits are. For its part, UP will remain steadfast in its duty to preserve the integrity of its real estate property to provide the highest quality of education that is the birth right of future generations of Filipinos.

—**EMERLINDA R. ROMAN,**
chancellor,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

LETTERS
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*All photos were taken at The Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Violence overshadows Iraq council meeting

BAGHDAD—Iraq took a confident step down an uncertain path toward democracy with the founding of a broadly representative governing council, but there was no respite from the violence that has plagued US forces trying to bring stability to the country.

One soldier was killed and six wounded in an attack by insurgents firing multiple rocket-propelled grenades at their convoy early Monday, said Spc. Giovanni Llorente, a military spokesperson. The wounded were brought to a military hospital.

Also Monday, the military said a Marine in southern Iraq died in a non-hostile incident. It provided no details. The violence followed a failed car-bombing Monday night on a police station full of US soldiers and Iraqi police, local police said.

A white Volkswagen was destroyed and a badly mangled and headless body lay nearby, said police Sgt. Adel Shakir. He said the body was thought to have been one of two men who were attempting to get the explosive-packed car near the station.

The governing council—which brings together Iraq's diverse mosaic of Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians and ethnic Turks—met for the first time Sunday. It planned to meet later Monday to name a leader.

In a deeply symbolic first public action, the council set April 9 —the day Baghdad fell to US forces—as a national holiday and banned celebrations on six dates important to Saddam and his Baath Party.

And the act was announced, significantly, by a prominent Shiite cleric. Shiites, long oppressed by Saddam, now dominate the 25-member council.

"The establishment of this council represents the Iraqi national will after the collapse of the dictatorial regime," said the cleric, Mohammed Bahr al-Uloum, from the holy southern city of Najaf.

The council will have real political muscle, with the power to name ministers and approve the 2004 budget. But final control of Iraq still rests with L. Paul Bremer —the US administrator of Iraq and a major architect of the council.

With the US military still struggling on the security front establishment of the council was a major political step, giving an Iraqi face to the US-led occupation of the country. American administrators had changed plans several times in the past months, wavering over how much authority to give the new body, which fueled a feeling among many Iraqis that the Americans had come as colonizers, not liberators.

As the new members were introduced to the world at the Baghdad Convention Center, Bremer stood and applauded from the front row. But he made no comment, a move designed to lower the American profile.

Council member Adnan Pachachi, a former foreign minister, said he did not expect Bremer to veto council decisions and believed negotiations would settle all disputes.

Still to be seen is whether the council can convince the Iraqi people that it represents them, even though they never had a chance to vote on its members. Coalition leaders say an election in Iraq is not yet practical. *AP*

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Arab League cool toward new council

CAIRO, Egypt—The Arab League chief showed little eagerness to embrace a new US-backed Iraqi national council as the people's representative, reflecting wider Arab wariness about America's intentions in Iraq.

But other Arabs welcomed the council as an important first step that, as Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher told reporters in his capital Monday, could "lead to the formation of an Iraqi government representative of all the country, elected by the Iraqi people and away from sectarian representation."

Qatar called on the international community to support the council, according to a Qatari Foreign Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A foreign ministry official in Kuwait, which was invaded by Iraq's Saddam Hussein in 1990 and was among the Arab states most enthusiastic about his fall, said Monday the council "expresses the will of the Iraqi people."

In an internationally televised ceremony a day earlier, the 25-member governing council bringing together Iraqi Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians and ethnic Turks was introduced in Baghdad. The council's makeup was ironed out in negotiations involving US officials and Iraqis who had opposed Saddam.

Khaled al-Maeena, editor of the Saudi newspaper Arab News, said that even though it was not elected, the council was representative.

Arabs "recognized Saddam and he was not representative of the Iraqi people," al-Maeena said. "Arabs should not be two-faced."

Most Arab leaders, like Saddam, gained power by force or birth, not elections.

If the new Iraqi council had been elected, Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said in a statement released by the league Sunday night, "it would have gained much power and credibility." *AP*

Most Britons believe Blair misled them

LONDON—Two-thirds of British voters feel Prime Minister Tony Blair misled them over the case for launching a war in Iraq, according to a poll in the Daily Mirror newspaper Monday.

Sixty-six percent of those questioned in the ICM Research poll said the prime minister had misled them—whether on purpose or not—over the reasons for going to war.

Twenty-seven percent said they believed Blair knowingly misled the British people, while 39 percent said the prime minister had misled them, but not knowingly.

Over a third, 35 percent, said that their confidence in Blair had decreased as a result of his handling of the confrontation with Iraq.

However, the poll also showed that dissatisfaction with Blair's role in the Iraq war does not appear to have seriously dented his ruling Labor Party's chances of winning the next general election.

Twenty-two percent of respondents said they would vote Labor against just 14 percent for the main opposition Conservative Party and 8 percent for the Liberal Democrats.

However, 30 percent did not disclose a voting intention and 19 percent said they wouldn't bother to vote.

Britain's next general election is due by mid-2006 at the latest.

Blair has seen his support among voters plummet in recent weeks as the government was accused of embellishing its case for war, and most recently his former Cabinet member Clare Short urged him to step down.

One of Britain's main arguments for war—the alleged threat posed by Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction—has been hard hit by the fact that three months past the war none has yet been found.

The BBC in late May reported that a British government dossier on Iraq in September was "sexed up" to help justify military action. *AFP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Orchid king gets 18 years

BEIJING—China jailed a fallen flower baron once listed as the country's second richest man for 18 years on Monday for commercial crimes in a case underscoring the precarious position of China's entrepreneurial elite. The guilty verdict brought to a close a dramatic reversal of fortune for Yang Bin, the orchid-growing Dutch national detained last year just days after North Korea named him head of a planned free trade enclave on the Chinese border. *Reuters*

70,000-120,000 trained terrorists

WASHINGTON—A congressional investigation into the Sept. 11 attacks has concluded that between 70,000 and 120,000 terrorists were trained by al-Qaida and some are still in the United States, Sen. Bob Graham said Sunday. "We have to assume that as those people were placed around the world, some were placed inside the United States. Some of them are in the United States today," Graham said on NBC's "Meet the Press." *AP*

Mass kangaroo slaughter begins

SYDNEY—Hired shooters are killing thousands of fast-breeding kangaroos that officials fear would otherwise starve within a fenced-off grassy army training base. Officials said Monday that professional hunters, contracted by the defense department, would kill 6,500 eastern gray kangaroos by the end of next month at the Puckapunyal military base, 100 km north of Melbourne. The slaughter was ordered after it was decided that a rapidly growing kangaroo population would overgraze the 42,000-hectare area bounded by a 1.8-meter electric fence. *AP*

Horrors of Taylor's regime

MONROVIA, Liberia—They staggered out of jail as scarred stick figures. A few slumped on the pavement in exhaustion—too ill to show any emotion about their newfound freedom. One was so traumatized he no longer recognized his sister. The men and boys, some as young as 13, were among 51 political prisoners unexpectedly released Friday from three jails in Monrovia—bearing witness to a brutal system of punishment and terror meted out by President Charles Taylor, whose regime now appears to be crumbling. *AP*

German general in Bastille Day rites

PARIS—France marked its national holiday in brilliant sunshine on Monday, as in a sign of the times a German general was due to lead the traditional military parade in Paris, heading a unit from the European Union's fledgling military force. The annual parade down the Champs Elysees Avenue was taking place under tight security, after a disgruntled far-right activist tried to assassinate President Jacques Chirac at last year's event. A German general, Holger Kammerhoff, was to take the lead in the parade, in which some 3,840 troops, 280 horses, 350 vehicles and more than 100 aircraft are due to take part. *AFP*

100 Aceh civilians killed

JAKARTA—More than 100 civilians were killed last month and a similar number suffered torture or other ill-treatment during an Indonesian military offensive against separatist rebels in Aceh province, a provincial rights group said Monday. The Aceh chapter of Kontras, the Commission for Involuntary Disappearances and Victims of Violence, said in a report that 110 civilians were summarily killed, 103 were ill-treated, 46 were arbitrarily arrested and 10 disappeared during June. "The increasing number of victims on the civilian side is caused by the increasing intensity of the military operation against the Free Aceh Movement as well as military difficulties in making the distinction between civilians and members of Free Aceh Movement in the whole of Aceh," the report said. *AFP*

Blast rocks Indon Parliament

JAKARTA—A bomb rocked Indonesia's Parliament building Monday, shattering glass and damaging a wall, just days after police arrested nine Islamic militants they said were planning fresh terror attacks.

No one was injured in the blast, the latest in a series of small bombings in the world's most populous Muslim nation since last year's devastating attacks on Bali island.

Police said Jemaah Islamiyah, the regional terror group blamed for the Oct. 12 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, was one of two prime suspects in the attack. The other is the rebel group fighting for an independent state in the western province of Aceh.

The early morning explosion damaged a wall of a building at the complex in central Jakarta and smashed several windows, witnesses said.

Jakarta Police Chief Maj. Gen. Makbul Padmanegara said officers were investigating the type of explosive used in the blast.

"We know it caused quite a big explosion and was quite dangerous," he said.

The blast was heard several kilometers away.

"There was a massive boom," said Karno, a security guard who goes by a single name. "I panicked but soon got my friends to check it out with me."

There were no legislators at Parliament, which was on its summer break. Security at the sprawling complex is tight, and police have recently started searching vehicles for explosives as they enter.

On Friday, police confiscated a huge haul of explosives, detonators and weapons from a bomb-making factory in the central Javanese town of Semarang.

Officers also announced the arrest of nine suspected members of Jemaah Islamiyah they said were planning more terror attacks.

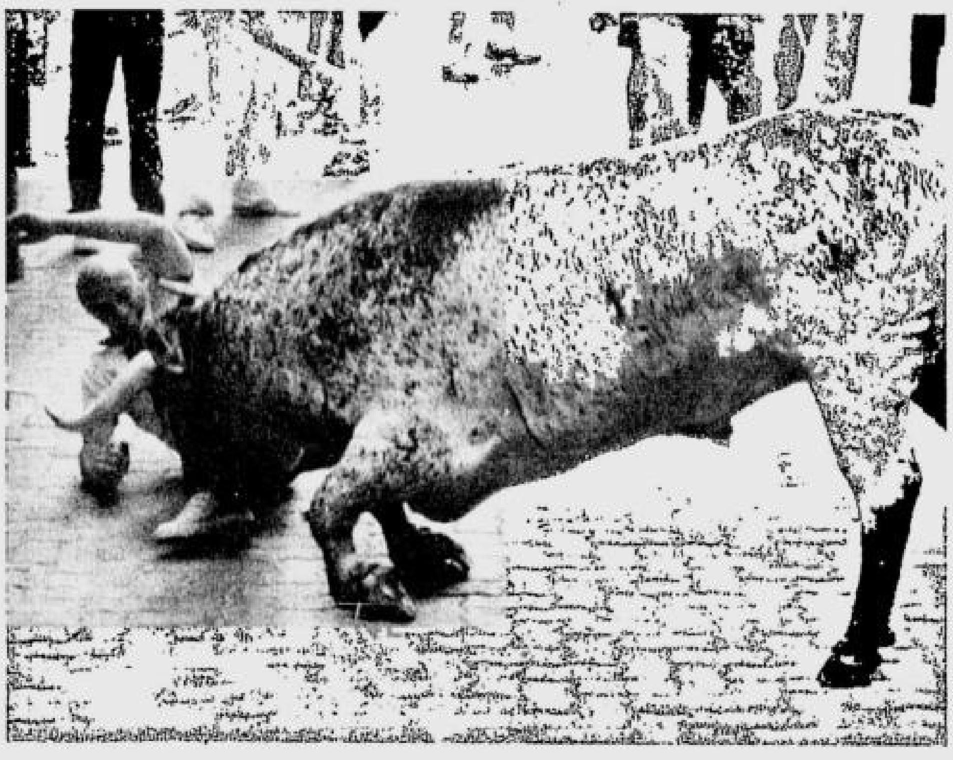
Since the Bali blasts, most Western governments have warned their citizens to avoid travel to Indonesia, saying that more bombings were possible.

Indonesia's stock market fell about one percent on news of Monday's bomb, but was still trading in positive territory near the midday break.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Col. Zainury Lubis, a police spokesperson, said the prime suspects were Jemaah Islamiyah and separatist rebels of the Free Aceh Movement.

In April, 11 people were injured when a pipe bomb ripped through the domestic departure terminal at Jakarta's airport. Police accused Acehense separatists of carrying out that attack. *AP*



BULL RUN

A reveler is gored during the annual bull run in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona on Monday, bringing to nearly 50 the number of people hurt at the nine-day event. Running with the bulls every morning during the festival, a high-risk sport popularized by Ernest Hemingway, is a topic of lively conversation and boasting in the city's bars for the rest of the day. AFP

Suharto son allowed perks in jail

JAKARTA—Tommy Suharto, son of the former Indonesian dictator, has cable TV, an exercise bike and meals delivered to the cell where he is serving a 15-year jail term for weapons possession and murder, a report said Monday.

The weekly Tempo magazine said Tommy's cell at Batu prison on Nusakambangan island had a TV, a folding bed with foam mattress, wall-to-wall blue carpeting and an en-suite bathroom.

The cell has an exercise bike and minders cross the narrow strait separating Nusakambangan and Central Java to bring Tommy his own meals, the magazine said.

The minders, who have rented a house in the town of Cilacap, also bring him correspondence and other items, it said.

Tempo quoted a jail source as saying that Tommy, who turns 41 on Friday, or his family had purchased two speedboats to transport his minders to and from Cilacap.

It said Tommy has built four ponds where he breeds Louhans, a popular but expensive type of ornamental fish.

The magazine said the jail had made available two special fully furnished and air-conditioned rooms for Tommy to receive his many guests, who come almost every day.

The jail's chief Kurbandi Waluyo told the magazine the facilities for Tommy were in line with instructions from his superior and were not "running against the feeling of justice."

Prison officials last month confirmed that Tommy had built a badminton court with his own funds at the jail.

The former millionaire playboy was convicted in July last year of ordering the contract killing of a Supreme Court judge and of possession of firearms and explosives. *AFP*

Hustiyang Pulpol, Pahirap sa Bayan!
Parusa sa Mamamayan!

Lubog na sa kumunoy ng kahirapan at nasa bingit na ng kamatayan ang Maralitang Pilipino. Patuloy kaming hinahambalos ng walang humpay na pagpapahirap bunga ng kawalan ng kabuhayan, walang patid na pagtaas ng bilihin at di makatarungang pagtrato ng Pamahalaan. Sawang-sawa na kami sa sangkaterbang pangako ng Pamahalaan.

MAHUSAY NA HANAPBUHAY SA SARILING BAYAN ANG KAILANGAN NAMIN UPANG MABUHAY NG MAAYOS, HINDI PANGAKO!.

Pagod na pagod na kami.. Habang kami ay patuloy na nagugutom, ang Pamahalaan na dapat ay tumutulong sa amin ay nagpapasasa sa kabang- yaman ng bayan. Patindi nang patindi ang suliranin ng *graft and corruption* sa Pamahalaan. SA SOBRANG KAGARAPALAN SA PANGUNGURAKOT NG MGA ALAGAD NG PAMAHALAAN, DINIG NA DINIG NA NG TAONG BAYAN ANG PANGYAYARI, NI HINDI MAN LAMANG IMBESTIGAHAN.

Maging ang katarungan sa ating Lipunan ay nakakiling na lang sa dikta ng may pera, impluwensya at kapangyarihan. Hindi na mabilang ang mga desisyon ng Korte Suprema laban sa Maralitang Tagalunsod. Ang Korte Suprema ay mistulang kasangkapan na lang ng Malacañang sa pag-ipit sa mga 'di nito kapanig. Ang magkasalungat na hatol ng Korte Suprema sa kaso ng *Philippine Air Terminal Co. Inc.* o PIATCO at JANCOM *Environment Corp. (JEC)* ay isa sa pinakamalinaw na halimbawa. Ayon sa Korte Suprema, ang kontrata ng PIATCO at ng Pamahalaan ni Pangulong Ramos at Pangulong Estrada ay labag sa interes ng Bayan dahil sa kakulangan nito sa kakayahang pinansyal. Kahit pa sabihing natapos na ng PIATCO ang NAIA Terminal 3. Sa kabilang banda, pinagtibay naman ng Korte Suprema ang kontrata ng JANCOM nang walang pakialam sa anumang kakayahang pinansyal nito at kahit labag ito sa *Clean Air Act* at *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.* Idiniin ng korte na ang Ehekutibo lang ang nagpapasya kung ano ang pabor sa interes ng Bayan.

Nagsimula ang kalbaryo ng PIATCO nang matalo nito sa bidding ang AEDC *(Asia's Emerging Dragon Corporation)* na pag-aari ni Lucio Tan. Nang matapos na ang NAIA Terminal 3 ay biglang sumulpot ang MASO *(MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators)* upang walang humpay na tuligsain ang PIATCO. Kabilang sa *MASO ang Philippine Airlines (PAL) at MacroAsia ni Lucio Tan*. Walang kahiya-hiya namang nagsisilbing tagapagsalita ng MASO si Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., ang pinuno ng *Securities and Exchange Commission* na nag-apruba sa rehabilitasyon ng PAL ayon sa kapritso ni Lucio Tan. Lalo pang tumindi ang paninira sa PIATCO nang hindi nito pahintulutan ang panghuhuthot ng mga maimpluwensyang tao sa Palasyo. NAGSANIB ANG PERA, IMPLUWENSYA AT KAPANGYARIHAN, KINALIMUTAN ANG TAMA AT TULUYANG PINAWALANG-BISA NG KORTE SUPREMA ANG KONTRATA NG PIATCO SA PARAANG LIHIS SA NAUNANG PAGTAGUYOD NITO SA KONTRATA NG JANCOM. SABAY NA NAGLAHO ANG PANGARAP NA MATINONG HANAP-BUHAY NG MAY 10,000 NATING KABABAYAN HABANG NAKATIWANG-WANG ANG NAIA TERMINAL 3 AT DI MAPAKINABANGAN NG MGA BUMABIYAHENG OFW.

HINDI NA NINYO MALILINLANG ANG TAONG BAYAN! Hindi na kayang maikubli ng itim ninyong kasuotan ang maitim ninyong budhi at kalooban.

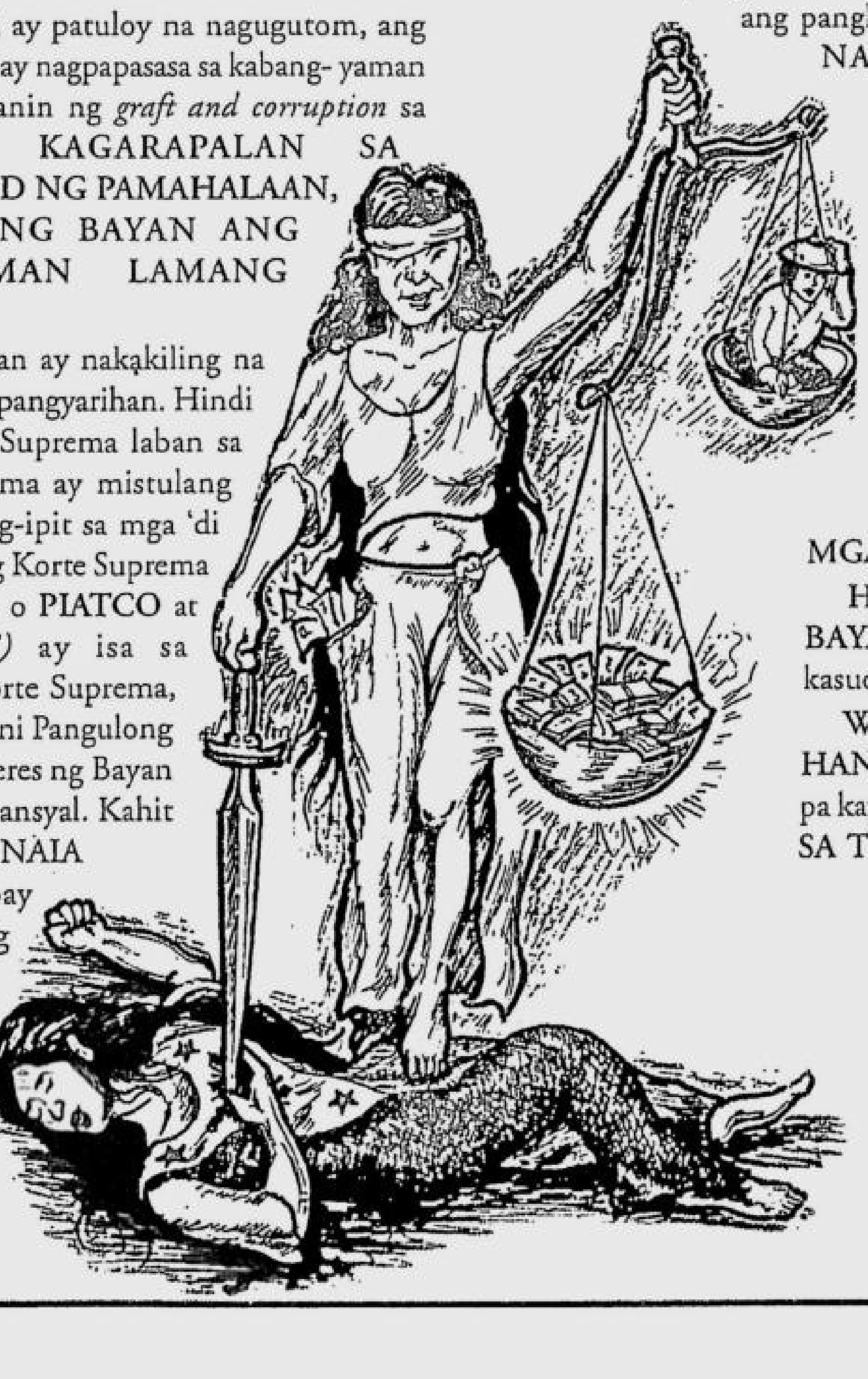
WALA KAMING MAAASAHANG KATARUNGAN HANGGA'T KAYO AY NARIRIYAN. Kung may natitira pa kayo na kahit konting delicadeza, BUMABA NA KAYO SA TRONONG INYONG KINALULUKLUKAN.

WALANG MATATAG NA REPUBLIKA,
KUNG WALANG TOTOONG HUSTISYA!

Sulong! Maralitang Pilipino
(SUMAPIL)

Ang SUMAPIL ay binubuo ng iba't-ibang samahan ng mga maralitang komunidad at masusing sumusubaybay sa mga desisyon ng Korte Suprema at mga patakaran ng Malacañang kaugnay sa usaping magbigay ng hanapbuhay at mabuting kinabukasan sa hanay naming mahihirap.

Advt.



THE REAL AND WHOLE TRUTH ON
LCT M/V GOLDEN SWAN

Last Wednesday, July 9, 2003, PHESCHEM Industrial Corporation, owners of LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN", caused the printing with this newspaper of a rebuttal to our open letter published the day before on our support to the PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD on the latter's refusal to issue the Certificate of Inspection to the aforesaid vessel.

While PHILPESTA believes that PMMRR 1997 and SOLAS 74/78 speak for themselves as to what maritime rules and regulations are applicable to a ship intended to carry liquefied gases in bulk such as anhydrous ammonia, the lies and half-truths contained in PHESCHEM's rebuttal, and omissions therein, compelled us to issue this rejoinder so that the public may know the real truth on LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN".

LIE:

PHESCHEM alleged that "PHILPESTA makes it appear that PCG is the regulatory agency" when, under E.O. No. 125/125-A, MARINA is the maritime safety regulatory agency.

TRUTH:

In its open letter PHILPESTA never said that PCG is the safety regulatory agency. What it stated is that the PCG is the implementor of maritime safety in the country.

Among the regulations issued by MARINA is PMMRR 1997 which has no specific provisions on the design, construction and equipment of a ship intended for the carriage of liquefied gas such as Anhydrous Ammonia, in which case, such ship must comply with the provisions of SOLAS 74/78 mentioned in paragraph 1, Regulation I.

To reiterate, Regulation 12, (1) and (3), Chapter VII of SOLAS 74/78 mandates that ships intended to carry liquefied gas are classified as gas carriers and must comply with the standards of the IGC Code or the International Gas Carrier Code. The IGC Code meanwhile requires that a gas carrier intended for the carriage of anhydrous ammonia must comply with the said Code and must be classified as Type 2PG. This was not applied on "GOLDEN SWAN".

LCT M/V "GOLDEN SWAN not being compliant with MARINA's rules - PMMRR 1997 and SOLAS 74/78, how then can the PCG be faulted for declining to issue the CI?

THE HALF TRUTH:

PHESCHEM claims that - "On July 16, 2001, MARINA approved the conversion of GOLDEN SWAN from a Landing Craft Transport (LCT) to Liquefied Gas Carrier (LGC) and allowed to carry and transport ammonia in bulk. This was followed by a Decision dated January 16, 2002 allowing the vessel to remain as LCT but can carry ammonia in bulk."

THE WHOLE TRUTH:

PHESCHEM deliberately omitted that MARINA's approval of 16 July 2001 on the conversion of "Golden Swan" from LCT to LGC is subject to six conditions, the most important of which is that the vessel should "*be utilized exclusively as Liquified Gas Carrier*". ***PHESCHEM violated this condition, and declared in numerous fora that it would use the vessel both for general cargoes and bulk anhydrous ammonia.*** In addition, during her maiden voyage in February, 2002, "GOLDEN SWAN" loaded 262 bags of "1-tonner Jumbo Bag Megaphos" along with Anhydrous Ammonia. ***The combined use of the vessel (as general cargo and liquefied gas carrier) is what is objectionable here. Combined carriage of general cargo and liquefied gas in bulk by any ship is not allowed in the IGC Code. What is allowed is the combined carriage of 2 or more products enumerated in Chapter 19 thereof, or liquid chemical products listed in a parallel code, the IBC Code*** *(or the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk).*

When PHESCHEM originally applied for the conversion of "Golden Swan" from a general cargo vessel to a combination of gas/chemical carrier and general cargo vessel, MARINA denied the application in a letter dated 7 December 2000 clearly informing the former as follows:

> "1. That the very unique feature of a Cargo vessel (LCT Type) equipped with permanently installed four pressurized bullet tanks intended for gasified products such as Anhydrous Ammonia (NH_3) for three (3) tanks and one (1) tank for Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) ***but also intended to carry assorted cargoes on deck (rolling and dry cargo), will pose danger to life, property and to environment.***
>
> 2. A ship intended to carry Anhydrous Ammonia (NH_3) is considered a gas carrier only and should therefore be used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other product listed in chapter 19 of the International Gas Carrier code, ***but not general cargo for which the vessel "Golden Swan" has been designed.***"

LIE:

PHESCHEM maintains that "Golden Swan" is a "new ship", not an "existing ship". As such it argues that the rules/standards applicable thereto are the local rules, not the international rules/standards referring to the IGC Code.

TRUTH:

"Golden Swan" is not a new ship within the purview of a newly constructed ship. ***It was originally designed, built and constructed in 1998 as a Landing Craft Transport-type of ship which is designed for the carriage of general cargoes, not liquefied gases in bulk.*** It is considered a new ship within the definition of PMMRR 1997 because it underwent major conversion since the latter defines a "new ship" as a "newly constructed vessel" or an "existing ship" which undergoes major conversion.

In July, 2000 "GOLDEN SWAN" was discovered to have been converted by PHESCHEM to a gas carrier without prior MARINA approval. PHESCHEM was fined for this violation under the provisions of MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 120. PHESCHEM subsequently applied for approval of the conversion. MARINA ***conditionally*** approved the conversion plans. ***However, PHESCHEM, by design, omitted to mention that in the same MARINA-letter approval of 16 July 2001, it was clearly informed that the applicable standards for a ship converted to a gas carrier is the IGC Code.***

PHESCHEM likewise omitted that, in all the exchange of communications between MARINA and the former, while its application for conversion is being evaluated, PHESCHEM was clearly informed that the requirements of the IGC Code are the applicable rules for such conversion. *In fact, in a letter dated March 24, 2001, PHESCHEM sought from MARINA exemption from four (4) mandatory requirements of the IGC Code.*

LIE:

PHESCHEM deceptively stated that on July 1, 2002 PCG officially declared that the IGC Code and other international maritime rules do not apply to vessels engaged in domestic trade like the "GOLDEN SWAN".

THE TRUTH:

(a) The PCG is consistent in its position on "GOLDEN SWAN", i.e., that the subject vessel must be reclassified as a liquefied gas carrier (if she is to carry anhydrous ammonia in bulk) and that she must comply with the IGC Code. ***As early as 19 February 2002, PHESCHEM and its legal counsel were advised by the PCG that the IGC Code is the governing rule.*** Thus, in a letter bearing the same date signed by the PCG Commandant, PHESCHEM was advised as follows:

> ***"If ammonia is to be carried in bulk (i.e. in bullet tanks permanently installed on the vessel), then MV GOLDEN SWAN should follow the rules as provided for in the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code)."***

The July 1, 2002-PCG-position mentioned by PHESCHEM that the IGC Code is not applicable to "GOLDEN SWAN" pertains to an opinion by a subordinate officer in the PCG that the "Certificate of Fitness" required for gas carriers by the IGC Code is not applicable to liquefied gas carriers engaged in domestic trade. ***However, nowhere in the said opinion was it stated that the other mandatory requirements of the IGC Code are not applicable to "GOLDEN SWAN".***

(b) Again, in the MARINA letter-approval of 16 July 2001, another condition imposed by MARINA to PHESCHEM is "***that all vessel safety documents/certificates must be secured prior to the operation of the vessel reflecting the vessel as Liquefied Gas Carrier***".

The Certificate of Inspection (CI) is definitely a safety document. The CI states the type of SOLAS equipment to be placed on board the vessel to be used by its crew in case of life-threatening emergencies. ***SOLAS equipment required for a general cargo vessel and a liquefied gas carrier are very much different. This is so because liquefied gases are dangerous and hazardous chemicals. Specifically, anhydrous ammonia, although not generally flammable, is a toxic and noxious substance that can cause serious burn to the skin, eyes, and lungs leading to death when inhaled at certain concentration. Thus, the stringent requirements by the IGC Code on the design, construction and materials on the hull and cargo tanks of a liquefied gas carrier in order to prevent the escape of the product from the cargo tanks.***

In the case of "GOLDEN SWAN" four out five of her cargo tanks were built and installed by PHESCHEM without prior MARINA supervision and approval. They were built and installed before PHESCHEM officially applied for the conversion.

LIE:

"There appears to be a concerted campaign by business competition, with the support of Philpesta . . ."

THE TRUTH:

PHILPESTA members welcome competition, but a competition that is fair and where all players observe the same rules. PHILPESTA's primordial concern, however, is safety in the maritime industry. As the trade association of tanker owners and operators representing 92% of the industry, it is beholden to uphold the highest forms and standards of safety in the practice of the trade. Its battlecry is "safe transport, cleaner seas and free competition". PHILPESTA does not oppose the entry of investors into the tanker trade so long as they follow the same rules applicable in the practice of the trade. In doing so, we protect the general public from unwarranted accidents, our seas from further degradation and sustain a healthy business environment and a level playing field for those who wish to take up to the challenge.

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5 rob suspects killed in shootout

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Five suspected members of a Baguio City-based robbery and hold-up gang were killed in a shootout with policemen in Sta. Maria town on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Mario Sandiego, Pangasinan police director, identified four of the slain suspects as Calugan Jimenez of Baguio City; Silvestre Tublan, Domingo Gualda and Dante Paica, all of Tadian, Mt. Province. The fifth suspect has yet to be identified.

Police said the suspects belonged to the "Acetylene Gang," which the Pangasinan police named as such because its members used acetylene torches to open steel gates, doors and vaults of banks.

"Their modus operandi is to open a hole (sic) in the (bank's) roof and open the vault, using acetylene (torches). They usually strike on weekends, when banks have no security guards," Sandiego said.

Police recovered a Tamaraw FX taxicab, two .45 cal. pistols, two .38 cal. revolvers, a .38 cal. pistol and vicinity sketches of three rural banks in Pangasinan.

Sandiego said policemen started chasing the suspects about 9 p.m. in Mangaldan town.

Chief Insp. Harris Fama, Mangaldan police chief, received a call from a resident on the presence of the suspect's vehicle parked near the Sta. Barbara Rural Bank branch in the poblacion.

When policemen tried to come near the cab, it sped off toward Manaoag town. Fama asked the provincial police to flash an alarm to all police stations in eastern Pangasinan to block the suspects.

The group sped through checkpoints put up by the police and was cornered in Sta. Maria at 11:50 p.m. The suspect's vehicle hit a waiting shed in Barangay Cauplasan, allowing policemen waiting there to close in on the group.

The group was believed to be behind the robbery of the Sta. Barbara Rural Bank on June 17 this year, the Dasol Rural Bank on Sept. 24, 2002, the Pozorrubio Rural Bank on June 10, 2002 and a pawnshop in Zambales last year. Its members were also involved in the killing of a taxi driver in Baguio City early this month, police said.

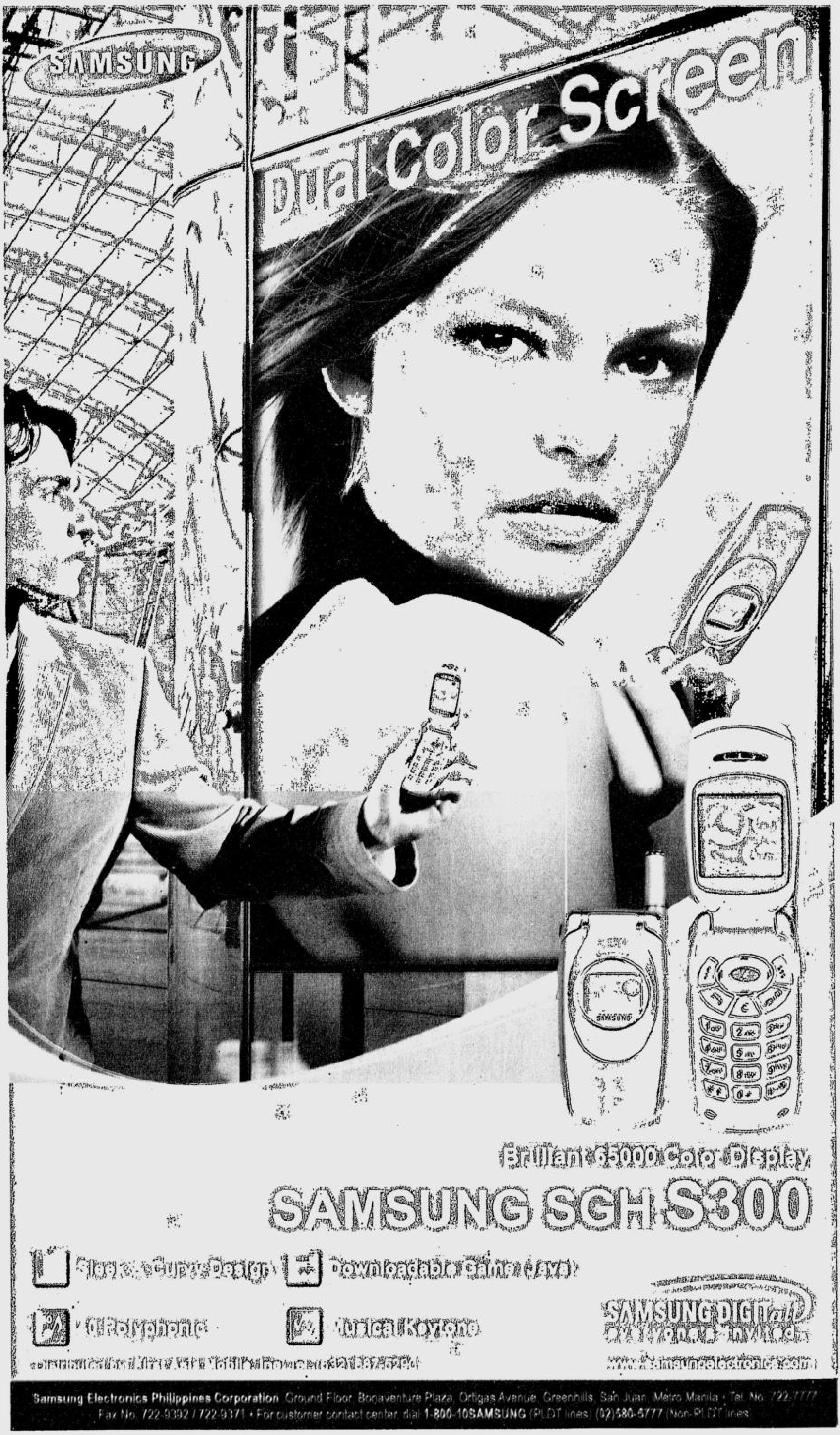
Sandiego said the police were also validating reports that the group was involved in a recent kidnapping case in Manila.

In Dagupan City, two bodies were recovered by the police in separate areas in the city on Monday.

Police said they found the body of a man in Barangay Bonuan at 5:30 p.m. The body, believed to be between 30 and 35 years old, bore four bullet wounds.

A cardboard strung around his neck bore this message: "*Huwag niyo akong tularan. Ihinto niyo ang pagtutulak at pagnanakaw. Maawa kayo sa sarili niyo* (Do not imitate me. Stop selling drugs and do not steal. Pity yourselves)."

Police found another body of a man floating on the Pantal River in the city about 6 a.m. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Security tightened in Iloilo towns for visit of GMA

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—More Army soldiers and policemen have been deployed in areas in Iloilo identified as rebel-infested, where President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to be on a visit.

Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, commander of the Army's Task Force Panay (TFP), said clearing operations have been conducted since last week to ensure the security of the President and her entourage.

The President is expected to visit Alimodian and Sta. Barbara towns today, kicking off her two-week sorties to depressed and rebel-infested areas in the Visayas and Luzon.

The President is expected to arrive around 11 a.m. in Alimodian, after she attends the funeral rites of Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

She is expected to lead the inaugural switching-on of the electrification project, covering several villages in Alimodian.

In the afternoon, she will visit Santa Barbara, where she will observe drug-testing activities.

Tomorrow, Ms Macapagal will proceed to Igbaras town, south of Iloilo City, where she will inaugurate infrastructure projects.

Leyte

She will attend a meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council in the hinterland village of Tabiac, 11 km from the town proper. The village is the site of clashes between government troops and rebels.

She is expected to proceed to Leyte and Eastern Samar, the site of recent NPA offensives.

The visit follows fierce offensives by the New People's Army (NPA) in Samar and Davao that claimed the lives of nearly 30 soldiers and government militiamen. The President has said she will launch "comprehensive countermeasures" against an upsurge in rebel attacks in the countryside.

But the communist rebels have belittled the President's pronouncements.

In the editorial of the July 7 issue of Ang Bayan, the fortnightly publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the rebels said the recent offensives "show that the (Macapagal) regime's much-vaunted militarism and its all-out war against the NPA are a failure."

It said the offensives were "a concrete response to the people's seething needs and aspirations, in the face of their extreme oppression and hardship" under the present administration.

"The regime is beside itself, thinking of ways to quench the fires of revolutionary armed struggle in various parts of the country, with the overextended forces of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)," the underground publication said.

30,000 expected at Fortich funeral

BACOLOD CITY—The Bacolod Diocese is expecting about 30,000 people from all walks of life to attend the funeral of Bishop Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich today.

Vicar General Victorino Rivas of the Bacolod Diocese said these people would come from the different parishes in the province.

Among those expected to attend the burial are President Macapagal Arroyo; Archbishop Fernando Capalla, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines; and bishops from various parts of the country.

At 7 a.m., the people will march to the Bacolod Public Plaza from four points—the Goldenfields Commercial Complex, City Heights, West Negros College and the Capitol Lagoon Park.

At 9 a.m., the remains of Fortich will be placed in a carriage for a procession around the Bacolod Plaza, to be accompanied by the bishops, priests and the faithful, Rivas said.

The procession will end at the San Sebastian Cathedral, where a Requiem Mass would be held. After the mass, the public will be allowed to view the remains, before it is placed in a tomb at the right side of the Cathedral altar.

Insp. Juanito Balinas, Bacolod Police traffic division chief, said 115 traffic cops would be fielded for the funeral.

Fortich, known as "bishop of the poor" and "man of peace," died on July 2. He was 89. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DENR chief vows crackdown on erring officials

BUTUAN CITY—Environment Secretary Elizea Gozon vowed to launch a massive crackdown on erring officials amid accusations raised by the New People's Army (NPA) that her men have plundered forest resources in the Caraga Region.

"Rest assured we're serious and we'll take appropriate actions," Gozon told reporters here.

Gozon, who reportedly went underground during the Martial Law years, was reacting to a statement issued by the NPA accusing top environment and natural protection officials of involvement in large-scale illegal logging in the region, particularly in San Luis town, Agusan del Sur.

But Gozon urged the NPA guerrillas to also take into consideration the "sacrifices" her men have done before taking harsh actions.

Benjamin Tumaliuan, regional executive director of DENR-Caraga, claimed that in an effort to cleanse his office, some 27 executives in Agusan del Sur alone have been criminally and administratively charged for negligence and laxity.

Felisa Mandirigma, spokesperson of the NPA's Jabbar Salipudan Command operating in Agusan del Sur, said punitive actions were imminent on DENR officials, who allegedly were in cahoots with ranking military officials in exploiting natural resources through illegal logging and other illicit activities.

"Officials are into illegal logging, we want to give justice to the people and (the) environment," Mandirigma said.

The strongly worded warning came as the Catholic Church and militant groups condemned the alleged corrupt practices of the environment officials in the province.

Earlier, Bishop Juan de dios Pueblos of the Butuan Diocese said the agency tasked to protect and preserve the environment has lost moral authority to do so because of alleged corrupt practices.

But Felixberto Orcullo, environment and resource officer in San Luis, lamented that their forest protection and anti-illegal campaign suffered a major setback largely due to the rebel presence in the area.

"NPA (rebels) are either protectors or themselves illegal loggers and they're armed " he told the INQUIRER.

Meanwhile, a top environment official, who asked not to be named, said he was not surprised that the NPA was turning against the DENR because the latter are now employing the police and soldiers in their drive against forest violators. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 428 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

Village chief slain

VIGAN CITY—A village chief in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, was shot and killed by a man in this city on Friday. Police said Ernesto Patubo Sr., 62, village chief of Quimmarayan, Bantay, was unloading a passenger in his tricycle when the latter pulled out a gun and shot him. Patubo suffered from three bullet wounds and died while being taken to the Rabara Clinic and Hospital in this city. Police recovered three empty shells from a .45 cal. pistol from the crime scene.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 held for fake bills

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police on Friday arrested three people on charges of possessing 38 pieces of fake P500-bills. Arrested were Francisco Moreno, 50; Vicky Fernandez, 19; and Feliciano Pinaroc, 55. Reports said the suspects were talking and preparing to distribute the fake money when policemen arrested them.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Waste facility Okd

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has approved the establishment of a P200-million modern waste disposal facility in this city. City Administrator Efren Alvarez said the project, one of the three piloted in the country under the government's comprehensive solid waste management program, would be put up in a 25-hectare area in Barangay Mapangpang. Alvarez said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation would finance the construction of the facility that could accommodate 300 metric tons of garbage daily.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

4 kids taken hostage

ALFONSO, Cavite—A mentally deranged man went berserk and held hostage his son and three nephews while armed with a bladed weapon in Barangay Kaytitinga 1 on Sunday night. Police said Zosimo Layag, 52, farmer, surrendered after a 30-minute negotiation with them. The victims, Mark Angelo Ligaya, 13, Joeffry Ligaya, 15, Nikki Jay Ligaya, and Layag's son Eric, were injured when Layag hit them with empty soft drinks bottles. The suspect allegedly had a nervous breakdown and was put under a psychiatric test.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Foreign service bill

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Sen. Manuel Villar expressed fear that the foreign service might be politicized because of the absentee voting bill. In this connection, Villar said he was preparing a bill that would professionalize foreign service and settle the issue on how foreign service officers are appointed. He believes that the bill will be approved before the start of the filing of candidacy on Nov. 15. He will introduce the bill when the Senate session resumes.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fishing vessel apprehended

SORSOGON CITY—Members of the Donsol police, Municipal Agriculture Office and Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Office caught a commercial fishing vessel operated by a certain Rodolfo Apuli alias "Omping" while in the act of illegal fishing, locally known as "pangulong," in Donsol River, Sorsogon. The "pangulong" uses a fleet of fishing vessels equipped with sophisticated equipment and is banned in municipal waters. FV Rogelio DLS was seized somewhere in Burias Pass in Masbate following a pursuit operation after the suspects eluded arrest, said Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, provincial police chief. Also arrested were 11 crewmembers. The other fishing vessels accompanying it were able to evade arrest.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Firearms seized

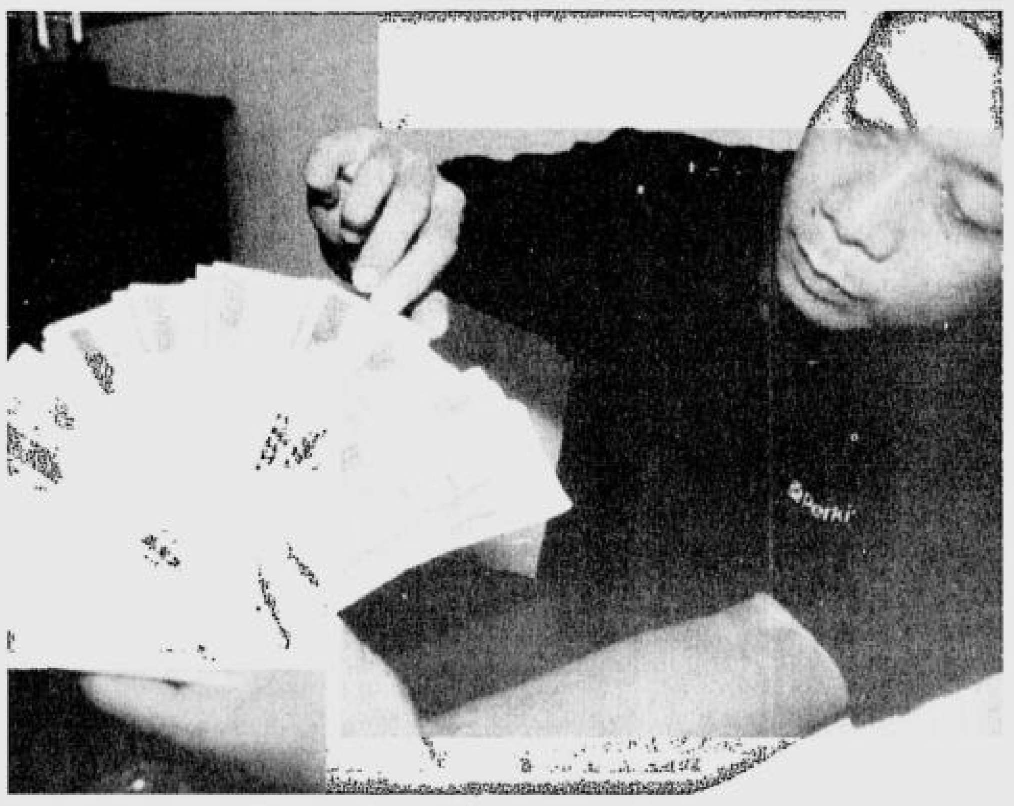
CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Calabarzon police swooped down on the lair of a businessman allegedly involved in gun smuggling and seized several high-powered firearms, including five armalite rifles, four hand pistols, three grenades and hundreds of ammunitions inside his house in Barangay Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal on Friday. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal identified the suspect as Robert Reyes, 43, resident of said place. Caringal said Reyes admitted owning the seized items. Police have already filed a case of violation of the Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunitions Act against the suspect.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DOLE union demands

LEGAZPI CITY—The Organisadong Alyansa Sa Ikabubuti ng Samahan (Oasis), a union of employees in the Department of Labor in Bicol, has demanded its proclamation by the DOLE as the legitimate union after it won over its rival union during a consent vote. Oasis vice president Henry Balaguer said they were declared the winner in the recent consent election to represent the DOLE employees, but they remain unrecognized. Luis Villamor, DOLE assistant director, said they are investigating the case but admitted it was indeed the Oasis who won the majority vote.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



MONEY FOR NOTHING

These fake P500-bills, confiscated from suspected members of a syndicate in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, were about to be distributed in the town when they were reported to the police on Friday night.

Smuggled shrimp, bangus fry from Taiwan seized in Clark

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Fisheries and customs authorities last week seized P1.9 million worth of shrimp and bangus fry, in separate incidents at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark and at the Laoag City International Airport in Ilocos Norte. Both shipments came from Taiwan.

In Clark, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources announced on Monday that authorities seized P600,000 worth of smuggled live shrimp fry at the DMIA, bringing to P31.35 million the total haul since January.

The cargo containing a million fry of the Pacific white shrimp *(Litopenaeus vannamei)* was intercepted at the intra-Asia Hub of the United Parcel Service at the DMIA, BFAR said in a statement.

The shipment was declared as "liquid dietary feeds" for the grouper (Lapu-Lapu) fish variety.

BFAR said the shipment came from the How Shu Tien Co. Ltd. based in Kaoshiung, Taiwan. It was consigned to a certain Stephen Chang of the Euro-Fish Traders in Parañaque City.

The haul was the fourth since similar illegal cargoes were seized at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and airports in Subic and Ilocos in the last six months.

In Laoag City, the Bureau of Customs seized P1.3 million worth of imported milkfish or *bangus* (*Chanos chanos*) fry smuggled at the LIA on Friday.

Acting on a tip from BFAR, the BOC discovered the items from the cargoes unloaded by the Far Eastern Air Transport. The flight came from Kaoshiung.

The shipment was placed in 44 boxes, each box containing 30,000 pieces of *bangus* fry sealed inside three oxygen-filled plastic bags.

Arthur Valente, fisheries regulatory coordinator under the provincial agriculturist's office in Ilocos Norte, said the imported fry were intended for *bangus*-culture in Bulacan, Pangasinan and Pampanga.

"The shipment was not intended for Ilocos Norte because we have an abundant supply of *bangus* fry. We even trade our supplies to Bulacan."

Valente said another shipment of *bangus* fry was confiscated at the Laoag airport in May. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Couple nabbed for bus burning in Nueva Ecija

CABANATUAN CITY—A couple was arrested in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija on Saturday in connection with the July 1 burning of a Baliwag bus, police officials said.

Senior Supt. Luisito Palmera, Nueva Ecija police director, said Benigno Dichoso and his wife Ofelia Saclamitao were arrested in their safehouse at Barangay Baloy in Cuyapo.

Dichoso was the secretary of the New People's Army unit operating in Cuyapo while his wife was a regular member of the armed group, Palmera said.

Recovered from their safehouse were a cal. .38 revolver, live bullets, a portable radio transceiver, anti-government documents, a jungle knife, and a pistol holster.

Their arrest, according to Palmera, was covered by a warrant issued by a judge in Guimba town.

Dichoso, also known as "Ka Sally," "Ka Bernard," "Ka Benny" and "Puti," has pending court cases against him, Palmera said. The couple was taken to Camp Olivas in Pampanga for investigation.

About 20 armed men burned the Baliwag bus on July 1 in a vacant lot along the highway at Barangay San Antonio, Cuyapo. None of the bus passengers was hurt.

The burning was the second involving a Baliwag Transit. Another bus was burned on June 3 along the mountain highway in Carranglan town.

Reports said a document seized from the couple indicated that the NPA was planning to launch sabotage operations in Central Luzon. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected NPA rebels free cop

DAVAO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels freed a policeman in Digos City on Friday, after more than five months of captivity.

SPO1 Germogenes Lom-oc, a member of the Pantukan police station in Compostela Valley, was blindfolded and hogtied when he was abandoned in Barangay Tres de Mayo, Digos City.

Police found Lom-oc at around 7 p.m., a few minutes after he alighted from an L300 van. Lom-oc appeared to have lost weight.

He told the police that he did not recognize his abductors and did not know where he was taken.

Lom-oc claimed he was placed in a room with no windows. He had not even seen the persons giving him food to eat because they covered their faces.

He said he never asked his abductors anything for fear of being executed.

His family believed he was already dead.

The victim was abducted by four armed men, believed to be NPA rebels, on Jan. 23 while he was on his way home from work. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Raps filed vs suspects in credit card swindle

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The police in Mandaue City filed estafa charges against four persons who allegedly victimized several firms using fake credit cards.

Police said the suspects were able to rake in a total of P1.7 million from seven appliance stores in Mandaue and Cebu cities since early this month.

Separate estafa charges were filed on Friday at the prosecutor's offices of Cebu and Mandaue cities against Vicente Rayo, 30, a resident of Greenhills Subdivision, San Juan; Lourdes Fjeld, 28, of Las Piñas, Manila; Rodexter Bautista, 23, of Bacoor, Cavite; and Jacqueline Norris Johnson, 32, of Greenhills, San Juan.

PO3 Lorenzo Albiso of the Mandaue City Police said the suspects were buying appliances worth some P100,000 at the Mandaue Cebu Trade Center in Subangdaku, Mandaue City on Thursday when the storeowner, Rogelio Manglapus, upon seeing the credit card they would use to pay the items, immediately alerted the credit card company.

He suspected that they were the same persons who bought some P363,000 worth of appliances from his store on July 8 using fake credit cards.

A representative from the Equitable Card Network confirmed that the credit card was fake.

Manglapus immediately called up the city police's Special Weapons and Tactics office for assistance.

The group tried to escape on their rented van. The van's driver, Edgar Cinco, however, stopped near the Subangdaku flyover when he noticed that policemen were chasing them.

Three of the suspects disembarked and ran towards a nearby shipyard but they were arrested. The four are now detained at the Mandaue City Police Office.

Recovered in their possession are seven pieces of fake credit cards from Standard Chartered Bank, Citibank, Hong Kong Bank, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) and Equitable-PCI Bank.

Albiso said representatives of these banks already showed up and executed affidavits that the credit cards recovered from the suspects were fake.

The other establishments victimized by the group included the Cebu Homes and Builder Center in Banilad, Mandaue which sold P375,000 worth of items to the group; and Salonga Music Center at the Cebu City North Reclamation Area which lost P55,500.

RP eagles spotted in Isabela

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—A Philippine eagle and its eaglet were spotted by a farmer in San Mariano town on July 4, raising hopes for a vigorous conservation effort by the government for these endangered species, an environment official said.

Samuel Berlin, community environment and natural resources officer of Naguilian, said the nest, where the newly-born eaglet was being nursed by the eagle, was found by Peter Dilagan, a farmer, at Sitio Diudip in Barangay Casala.

Berlin said Dilagan, who was gathering twigs for firewood, heard the crying eaglet that prompted him to look for its nest.

A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the San Mariano government will monitor the eagle and the eaglet, Berlin said.

Last month, a snared eagle was released in the Sierra Madre two days after it was declared in good health by a veterinarian in Isabela. The eagle was caught by farmers through a deer and boar trap in the forest at Sitio Dimalaklakan in San Mariano. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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'Escape raises danger of terrorism in region'

REGIONAL security analysts yesterday expressed concern and consternation over the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a senior member of the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) regional terrorist group, from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

"It is a major breach of security because he was the most important JI member currently in custody," Singapore-based Rohan Gunaratna, author of "Inside Al-Qaeda: Global Network of Terror," told Agence France Presse.

"He is the most experienced, the best trained and the most well motivated."

JI is a regional terror organization linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and accused of using violent means in its bid to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia.

Gunaratna warned that Al-Ghozi, an Indonesian sentenced by Filipino authorities to 12 years in prison last year for possession of explosives, was capable of quickly launching a terrorist attack.

"He is the one man who can put together an operation in such a short time," he said.

"He knows how to purchase weapons, he knows how to put operations together, he knows security. It is a very important lesson to other countries that they must not hold JI prisoners under conditions in which they can escape because they are very highly motivated."

Gunaratna said Al-Qaida had trained Al-Ghozi in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan before the US-led war toppled the hardline Islamic regime in 2001.

He said Al-Ghozi did the surveillance work for planned attacks against Western and other targets in Manila and Singapore. Al-Ghozi had also been implicated in the deadly Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Andrew Tan, a security analyst with the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore, appeared incredulous that Philippine authorities could have allowed Al-Ghozi to escape.

"For someone who is so important to have just escaped, how is that possible?" asked Tan, who advises the Singapore government on security issues.

Tan said Al-Ghozi was one of two directing figures behind the foiled attacks on the US Embassy and other targets that included water pipelines in Singapore in 2001.

He described Al-Ghozi's escape as a "setback" in Southeast Asia's fight against terrorism.

But he said the immediate risk of a terrorist attack in the region had not greatly increased because JI's leadership and logistical networks were still severely disrupted in key areas such as Singapore and Malaysia.

Senators

For their part, senators said Al-Ghozi's escape was a slap on the Macapagal administration and a big blow to the government's antiterrorist campaign.

"This escape, happening in the presence of Australian Prime Minister John Howard whose agenda includes the global and regional war against terrorism would erode the confidence of the coalition of the willing," opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said in a statement.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said "all (PNP) officers responsible, from top to bottom, should be answerable to all the victims of the Dec. 30 bombings."

For "placing the entire nation at risk," those responsible for the escape of the terrorists should be punished to the "fullest extent of the law," said opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"This is a sad and shameful day in our fight for law and order," Angara said in a statement. "Filipinos are now uncertain if the so-called strong republic can protect them from unlawful elements."

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said that Al Ghozi's escape "couldn't have happened without the involvement of influential elements within the PNP."

"There are only two possible reasons for their escape, corruption or incompetence on the part of the custodians," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said in a phone interview. "In any case, the PNP is the loser."

Lacson, who was PNP chief during the Estrada administration, said indications were that Al-Ghozi was able to escape with the assistance of his guards. *Reports from AFP and Christine O. Avendaño*

Indon bomber bolts Crame; 4 officers axed

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Bunye said Ms Macapagal had ordered diplomats, the justice department and all intelligence agencies to "contact their Indonesian counterparts for the purpose of coordinating efforts to recapture" the fugitives.

Al-Ghozi, 31, alias Randy Ali, was sentenced to 10-12 years in prison last year for illegal possession of explosives.

Abu members

Lasal, 31, alias Merang Abante and Abu Abubakar, is considered a senior member of the brutal Abu Sayyaf group. He was captured in January. A P1-million bounty was placed on his head after he was implicated in the kidnapping of American Jeffrey Schilling in 2000. Schilling later escaped.

Edris, 30, alias Alex and Ryan, is also believed to be an Abu Sayyaf member. He was captured in Pasay City last November. He was among those indicted in the United States for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of tourists from Palawan's Dos Palmas resort in May 2001. Two of the three American hostages died.

Police say Al-Ghozi has confessed involvement in the five Dec. 30, 2000, bombings in Manila, and he had been scheduled for arraignment next week.

His confessions have been used to file charges against alleged co-conspirators, including Muklis "Saifullah" Yunos, who pleaded guilty to helping plan the attacks.

Al-Ghozi led Philippine police to a ton of TNT that officials say was intended for planned attacks in Singapore on Western targets, including the US Embassy.

Prosecutors say Al-Ghozi and Yunos, who claims to be a subcommander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, have described how two other men financed the purchase of about 70 kilograms of explosives used in the Manila bombings.

Yunos allegedly prepared the bombs' wiring while Al-Ghozi reportedly admitted preparing the switch on the alarm-clock triggers and packing the explosives, the prosecutors said.

Al-Ghozi had given a deposition to Philippine prosecutors claiming that JI leader Hambali, born Riduan Isamuddin, and Faiz Abubakar Bafana, funded the December 2000 bombing of the Manila light rail system and other key installations that killed 22 people.

Intelligence operatives in the region say Hambali is believed to be the operations chief of the JI. He remains at large while Bafana has been detained in Singapore.

Not the first time

Security at the IG compound have been tightened several times in the past following the escape of other Moro terrorists and kidnappers.

Two Abu Sayyaf leaders—Khadaffy Janjalani and Juvenal Bruno—escaped from the same detention center on May 29, 1995 during the watch of PNP Director General Recaredo Sarmiento.

Janjalani and Bruno reportedly exited through the ceiling of their cell. From the roof, they jumped into a nearby mango tree and walked away from the camp, using the Santolan gate.

To this day, Janjalani remains at large and continues to sow terror in Western Mindanao. Bruno's whereabouts are not known.

Faizal Marohombsar, alleged operations chief of the Pentagon gang, escaped with two other suspected kidnappers—Abdul Macaombang and Rolando Patino—on June 19, 2002 from their detention cell at the now defunct National Anti-Crime Commission, also in Camp Crame. Ebdane was then Naktaf chief.

Marohombsar was killed two months later in a gun battle in Cavite. Lawmen subsequently caught up with Macaombang and Patino.

Suspected drug lord Henry Tan escaped from the jail of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Camp Crame on Sept. 28 last year. Charges were filed against seven PDEA personnel in connection with Tan's escape.

Romulo Kintanar, head of the communist New People's Army then, also escaped from Camp Crame in November 1988. So did Alfredo de Leon, leader of the Red Scorpion gang, in October 1991. Kintanar was assassinated in Quezon City on Jan. 23 this year; Dé Leon was gunned down by lawmen in February 1993.

Heightened alert

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has directed its troops in Mindanao to intercept Al-Ghozi if he tried to make contact with MILF rebels there.

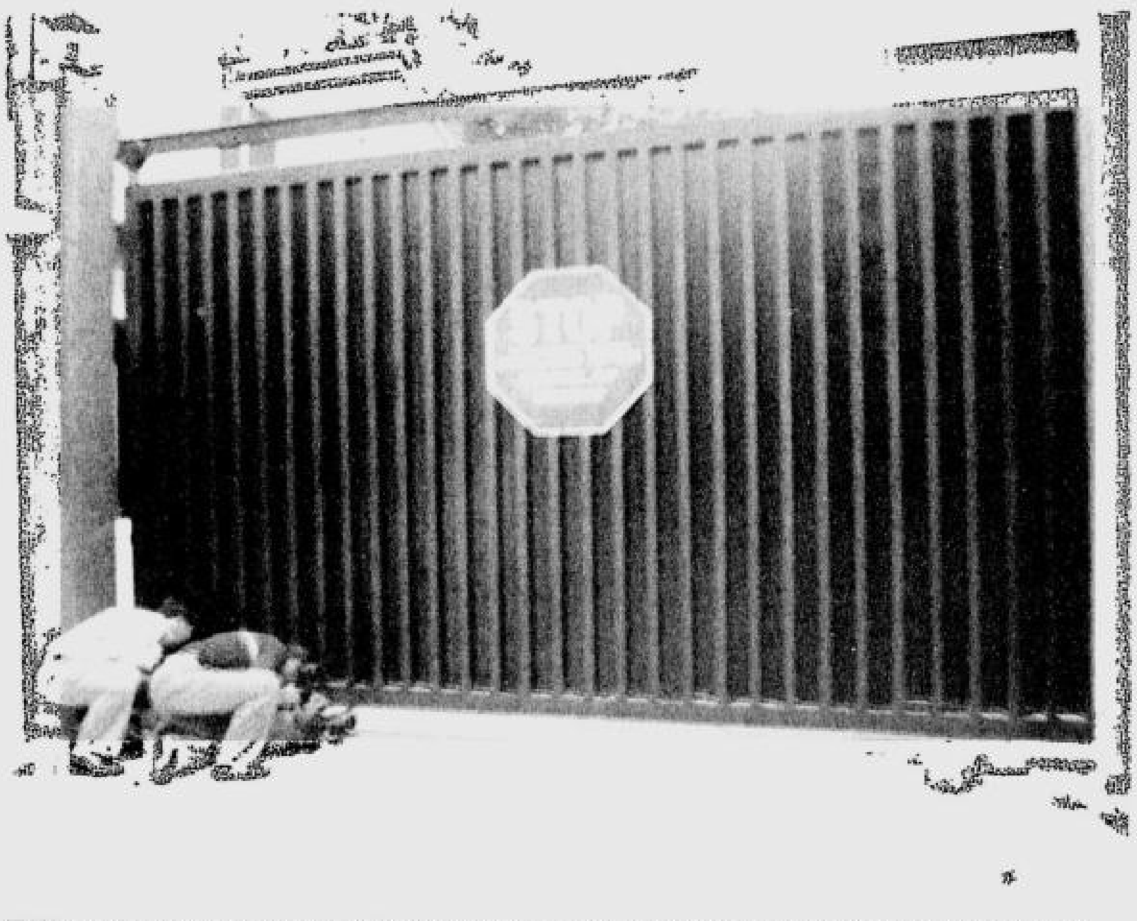
"The military has already alerted the troops and intelligence units to intensify the manhunt against Fathur and two of his companions," AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said. "So far there is no indication yet as to where the suspect had escaped."

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said orders had been sent to MILF field commanders not to provide sanctuary to the three fugitives.

"Arrest, detain them and inform the central committee," Kabalu quoted MILF military chief Murad Ebrahim as saying in his directive.

"I hope the government would not launch offensives against us in the guise of running after the escapees," Kabalu said.

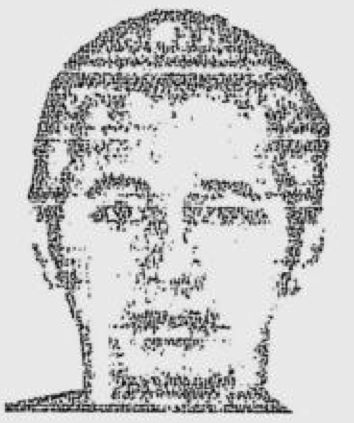
"We will arrest him (Al-Ghozi) and hand him over to the government," Kabalu added. "This is a test case for us, if we could get him, we can prove that we do not coddle criminals." *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP and Reuters*



TWO persistent cameramen from foreign wire agencies try to take footages of the Intelligence Group compound in Camp Crame where suspected bomber Fathur Roman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf members had been detained.

VAL HANDUMON

POLICE handout photos of Abdulmukim Ong Edris (top photo) and Omar Opik Lasal.



Police nab suspect . . .

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"We are following up a very good lead, we expect more arrests." he added.

Police said the arrested suspect may be linked to the Abu Sayyaf, a small group of self-styled Islamic militants blamed for a rash of high-profile kidnappings and bombings in the South in recent years.

Initial investigation showed that the motive in the July 10 market bombing might have been extortion, Raval said.

He said that 30 minutes after the bomb tore through the market, a man claiming to be Abu Sulaiman, an Abu Sayyaf leader, called up Mayor Fernando Miguel claiming responsibility for the attack.

Sulaiman reportedly told the mayor that the bombing was in retaliation for a refusal to pay extortion money, police said.

Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, deputy police chief for operations, said there was still no solid evidence directly linking Mangudadatu to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a 12,500-strong force waging a separatist rebellion in Mindanao since 1978.

But going by the pattern of the four recent bombings in South Cotabato, Gil said the arrest bolstered speculations that the MILF was behind the explosions.

"The targets were all in Koronadal, the bomb components were the same, and only one group was tagged in the previous incidents," he told reporters in Camp Crame. "It's just simple deduction."

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu yesterday asked the Philippine National Police to go slow in implicating his group.

"Why are we always considered the usual suspects?" he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "What will we get from all these attacks? We maintain our denial and we continue to condemn the incident."

Kabalu said his group was hoping that the Malaysian government would send a special team to conduct an "impartial investigation." Malaysia has offered to broker peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF.

In Congress, the chair of the House defense committee yesterday called on the Malaysian government to take cognizance of the "terrorist links" of the MILF.

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said it was not enough for Kuala Lumpur to simply assist in the peace negotiations but it must also "push for the speedy apprehension" of MILF members allegedly involved in recent terrorist attacks in Mindanao.

"The latest attack on the Koronadal public market shows that at the very least, there are terrorist elements within the MILF," Pichay said in a statement. "The ongoing peace negotiations should not exempt the MILF from constitutional provisions on persons accused of heinous crimes."

A Davao City regional trial court earlier issued warrants of arrest against several top MILF leaders who allegedly masterminded two recent bombings in the city.

Kabalu said it was highly suspicious for police authorities to come up with the sketch of the three suspects within three hours after the bombing.

But Rufino maintained that witnesses had identified Mangudadatu as among the suspects.

After undergoing police interrogation, Mangudadatu was placed in the custody of the president of the Association of Barangay Captains in Lutayan town, he said.

No case has yet been filed against the suspect, Rufino said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, AFP*

Australia, RP sign antiterror accord; Manila gets A$5M

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Howard said.

"This assistance reflects Australia's commitment to working closely with the Philippines to combat terrorism and the priority we attach to cooperation to strengthen the region's counterterrorism capacity," Howard said.

He said security cooperation between the two countries was important, considering that there are 100,000 Australians living in the Philippines.

In addition, he said five Australian policemen had arrived to help investigate a bomb attack last week that killed at least three people in Koronadal City.

Ms Macapagal thanked Howard for the training provided by the Australian military to 100 Filipino soldiers as well as the fresh security assistance.

"All of these benefits are important in our common fight against terrorism," she said, noting Australia had provided P175 million, mostly grants, to Mindanao.

Similar initiatives

Howard said his government had been making similar initiatives with other Asian countries, some of which had been identified as operational bases for Jemaah Islamiya (JI) militants blamed for the Bali blasts last year that claimed 202 lives, including 88 Australians.

"The people present will be aware of the ongoing cooperation between the Australian Federal Police and the Indonesian authorities in the context of the Bali investigations," he said.

Howard credited the Australian police with helping the Indonesian authorities break up a JI bombing and assassination plot on Java island last week.

"It's the belief of the Indonesian police and the Australian police that it may well have averted a very serious incident or a series of incidents," he said without elaborating.

"Evidently, they (munitions) could have been used against anybody and that might have included foreign visitors. It was a very important series of arrests. The people involved I have been told by the Australian Federal Police were very senior indeed and very influential."

He added: "Close cooperation between our law enforcement agencies, close cooperation between our intelligence services lie at the heart of the ongoing fight against terrorism."

Before meeting Ms Macapagal, Howard said he would specifically discuss reported links between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and suspects in the Bali bombings.

Howard said there was evidence that another Moro extremist group, the Abu Sayyaf, had links with JI and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Conscious suffering

The Abu Sayyaf is notorious for kidnappings and beheadings, as well as for bombings and banditry in Mindanao. Washington has deployed forces since last year to help Filipino troops wipe out the Moro bandits, whose number has declined from a few thousand to less than 500.

"The Philippines has suffered from terrorism, parts of it have suffered very severely and we're very conscious of that," Howard said after arriving Sunday. "We want in every way we possibly can to work together."

Australia intensified efforts to strengthen counterterrorism cooperation in the region following the Bali attacks. But many Southeast Asian officials and groups expressed concern when Howard announced that he might order pre-emptive strikes against terrorist cells in some countries before they could launch attacks on Australian targets.

About two dozen left-wing activists held a brief protest near the Australian Embassy, holding up placards reading: "Howard US puppet" and "Howard warmonger." Security guards prevented them from approaching.

Howard is expected to reopen the Australian Embassy before he leaves Tuesday, mending a diplomatic spat that erupted last November when Australia, Canada and the European Union closed their embassies in Manila, citing "specific and credible" terrorist threats which they refused to divulge to Philippine officials.

Philippine officials insisted there were no threats and called the closures an overreaction that harmed the country's image.

Howard is to deliver a policy speech on regional security at the Asia Society here on Tuesday before flying to Japan. He is also scheduled to visit South Korea. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan, AP and AFP*

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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Pa, 2 sons stabbed dead in QC; daughter seriously hurt

By Tina Santos

THE BODIES of a father and his two sons, as well as a seriously wounded daughter, were found by neighbors inside their house in Quezon City, yesterday morning.

Fatalities Gil Mabulac Sr., 38, a truck driver, and his sons Paul, 10, and Gil Jr., 2, were found lying side by side inside their bedroom. They all succumbed to stab wounds in the body.

Meanwhile, daughter Gil Jean; 13, who was found unconscious near the front door, sustained stab wounds in the chest. She remained under observation at the Quezon City General Hospital.

Central Police District investigators said the victims were stabbed one after the other at around 1:30 a.m. inside their house at the NPC Compound, Sitio Mendez, Barangay Baesa.

The police have placed under its custody a nephew of Mabulac, Edwin Abalos.

According to P01 Rodel Polo, of the CPD station 3, Abalos gave himself up to Baesa chairman Bayani Aquino "to clear his name." Aquino then turned him over to the police.

The name of Abalos surfaced after probers found scribblings on the floor of the victims' house saying *"Si Kuya Edwin ang pumatay sa tatay ko."*

Investigators believe that it was written by Gil Jean. However, the girl could not confirm this since she was still unable to give a statement on the incident.

A police source said they were looking into a possible love triangle as motive behind the killing. This was arrived at after several witnesses claimed that Abalos had been having an affair with Mabulac's wife, Gina.

Gina, who had reportedly left their house a month before the incident, said the reports were "rumors."

In an interview, Abalos said he had nothing to do with the killing, adding that he was at another uncle's house in Caloocan at the time of the incident.

This developed as another investigator at the CPD Criminal Investigation Unit spoke on condition of anonymity and said that it was also possible that the father killed his children and scribbled the writings on the floor before killing himself.

According to the investigator, Mabulac could have been depressed because of the rumors about his wife and Abalos.

METROBRIEFS

Cop with stolen taxi held

A MEMBER of the anti-vice unit Task Force Jericho was arrested on Sunday while in possession of a stolen Tamaraw FX taxi in Bacoor, Cavite. Nabbed by the Mandaluyong police was Insp. Rolando Columna, an investigator of the Department of Interior and Local Government. Columna told the arresting lawmen that he had recovered the vehicle, which was first reported stolen in Mandaluyong on July 8. On Sunday, a friend of the owner saw the taxi in Barangay Niyog 3, Bacoor, and immediately informed the owner, Engineer Ramil Vitto, who immediately sought police assistance. A team was dispatched to Bacoor, and there caught up with Columna. During the questioning, Columna denied stealing the vehicle and said he would have used it for another operation to recover another stolen vehicle had he not been arrested. *Luige del Puerto*

Fire hits Intramuros

FIRE destroyed parts of an old printing press in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday. The 40-minute fire that started at 10:20 a.m. gutted property worth P3 million. The building, a former printing press that is being renovated into a gym, is located along Basco St., right behind the historic San Agustin Church. F03 Wilson Tana said the fire began when embers from a welding rod fell on flammable materials at the construction site. Tana said cans of paint, trash and wood at the site contributed to the spread of the flames. Nobody was reported hurt in the incident. Intramuros, a walled city with cobblestone roads in the country's capital, has recently undergone renovation to make it more attractive to tourists. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Illegal recruiter jailed

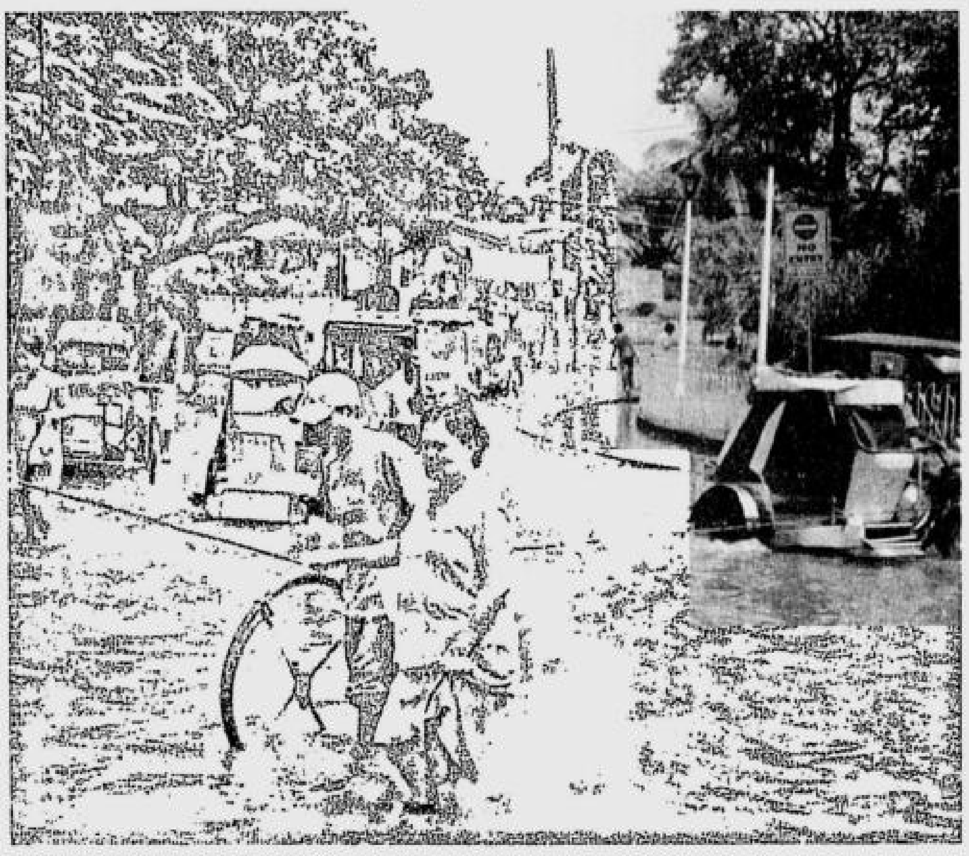
A WOMAN who once saved someone's life will spend the rest of her life in jail. Lita Cais, of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for large scale illegal recruitment. The Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 40 also ordered Cais to pay her victims P500,000 in damages. Cais, with Flordeliza Cipriano and Nancy Leono, had been accused of tricking seven people into paying a placement fee of P410,000, between Dec. 27, 2000 and Jan. 24, 2001. The victims said the three had told them they worked for FIC Travel and Tours. One of the victims, Helen Fos, said she trusted Cais because she once helped save her life during a birth delivery. Cipriano and Leono remain at large. *Tarra Quismundo*

Chopped body found

ANOTHER chopped body of a man was found over the weekend in Quezon City, police said yesterday. A report from the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Central Police District said the torso was placed inside a yellow sack and was found by passersby at around 11 a.m. on Sunday dumped along Scout Fuentebella near Scout Torillo in Barangay Sacred Heart. Last Saturday, chopped arms and legs of a man and a woman were also discovered in the city. *Tina Santos*

UP wants oil depot out

THE University of the Philippines has filed a petition before the Supreme Court to compel the Manila city government to enforce its ordinance prohibiting the use of Pandacan as an oil depot by Shell, Petron, and Caltex. The ordinance has not been enforced and the oil companies are still occupying the area. UP owns a 16,240 square meter lot in Pandacan which was donated by the Getty Oil Company in 1975. A portion of the land has been leased to Shell. *Tarra Quismundo*



JUST ANOTHER DAY
This scene may surprise others, but not the residents of Malabon City. Rains did not pour and the sun was high yesterday, but a few streets were under water, including this one in front of the city hall, due to high tide. Malabon is part of the Camanava cluster, a flood-prone area, which was expected to be under deep water yesterday as geologists earlier predicted the tide would rise to its highest this year. The prediction did not come true.
JOAN BONDOC

'See-thru' fences in Metro eyed

By Margaux Ortiz

DON'T hide it. Flaunt it.

Or so goes the idea of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando as he encouraged property owners to show the beautiful buildings and landscapes that they hide behind thick and high concrete walls.

"Metro Manila is actually more beautiful than Singapore if only our beautiful buildings and landscapes would cease to be hidden from the community and the tourists," Fernando said in a press conference yesterday.

The MMDA chair was batting for compliance with a directive of President Macapagal-Arroyo to replace solid walls around government offices and property with "see-through fences" like wire meshes and grills.

The see-through fences should allow 80 percent visibility from the outside.

According to Fernando, aside from enabling people to see beautiful buildings and lawns, wire fences would discourage graffiti.

"People would find it hard to plaster campaign posters on the see-through walls especially now that election time is near," the MMDA chair explained.

Government agencies, which are allowed to use their respective budgets to fund the construction of the fences, are required to finish the project before the visit of US President George W. Bush in October.

"We Filipinos are known to put our best foot forward when visitors are present," Fernando said.

But he clarified that the fences should be constructed with or without the presidential visit.

Fernando said that over 20 government agencies had complied with the directive.

He added that Quezon City's government center, the airport zone and areas with golf courses were required to construct the fences as soon as possible.

In terms of security, Fernando said properties visible from the outside were less prone to criminal activities.

The MMDA chair added that the issue of privacy was also not a problem.

"They (property owners) should plant more trees if they don't want to be overexposed," Fernando said.

But Fernando emphasized that the owners should plant the trees in their yards.

Fernando said private establishments were also encouraged to construct see-through fences.

He added that it is now up to the local government units to make the construction compulsory.

Francisco Dagñalan, president of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners, said see-through fences would "soften the concrete jungle" and "humanize the metropolis."

"The transparent walls would enable city dwellers to see the greenery previously hidden behind opaque, looming fences," Dagñalan said.

Reshuffled NBI execs cry foul

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE RESHUFFLE at the National Bureau of Investigation has ruffled the feathers of two ranking officials of the agency.

Erstwhile deputy director for Regional Operations Services Samuel Ong yesterday led a rally at the NBI headquarters on Taft Avenue to protest his designation as deputy director for Technical Services.

He was joined by Deputy Director Fermin Nasol, newly designated head of Comptroller Services, and 20 other NBI employees. Nasol was former head for Intelligence Services.

Ong accused NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco of politicking for assigning him to a "sleepy" position because of his perceived ties with Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

He pointed out that it was under his command as director for the National Capital Region that the disappearance and murder of public relations practitioner Bubby Dacer was solved, with the arrest of several members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Sought for comment, Wycoco said, "Maybe he should wait for his patron and boss to become president. Then they [can] rule together."

Ong aired suspicion that Wycoco effected the reshuffle because the latter suspected him, Nasol and deputy director Filomeno Bautista of leaking to media the story about his alleged jueteng payoff.

He called on bureau employees to join him, but the NBI Employees Association said it was behind Wycoco.

Malonzo files raps against solon's escort

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo filed yesterday administrative charges against Rep. Enrico Echiverri's police escort who, he claimed, tried to kill him last Saturday.

He said he would also order the dismissal of PO1 Mocel Quilinguen, Eschiverri's escort and a policeman of the Northern Police District.

This came as Quilinguen also announced yesterday that he would file counter charges against Malonzo and his men. Quilinguen denied that he tried to shoot Malonzo.

Malonzo had ordered his men to disarm Quilinguen when the latter allegedly pulled out his gun during a birthday party attended by Malonzo and Echiverri.

Quilinguen fled, prompting Malonzo to call the congressman yesterday to ask him not to hide the policeman. But Echiverri told Malonzo that his aide had done nothing wrong.

Biazon's family planning bill

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HURRAY for Sen. Rodolfo Biazon!

Biazon has courted the ire of the Catholic Church in the country for his bill seeking to push family planning. But the senator is not worried a bit about going to hell for getting the anger of church leaders.

"*Wala akong pakialam kahit magalit ang Simbahang Katoliko sa akin* (I don't care whether the Catholic Church is mad at me)," he said.

* * *

If most senators and congressmen were like Biazon, the Catholic Church would end their meddling in government affairs.

What's wrong with our government leaders is that they have this morbid fear of going to hell if they displease the Catholic Church, whose members compose the majority of the population.

The Catholic Church is not God, neither can it claim to be the only way to salvation.

So, why should our government leaders allow the church to dictate to them on purely mundane matters?

The Catholic Church is forgetting Jesus Christ's admonition "to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Controlling population is not the Church's concern unless it violates the laws of God.

What's wrong with a married couple, for example, employing natural family control methods in order to space their children or not have children at all?

* * *

Using condoms or pills, among the natural methods of family planning, is a sin in the eyes of the Catholic Church. If this is so, the Church might as well make the married couple's copulation a sin.

As long as it's not abortion, which is murder of an innocent child, the Church has no business telling couples what basically is their private business.

Baka di magtagal pati sexual positions *pakikialaman na ng Simbahan?*

* * *

So, Senator Biazon, please go ahead with your bill that seeks to adopt safe methods of family planning.

You're not only doing a patriotic act, you're also doing something pleasing to the eyes of God. Why would it be pleasing to God? Because you're preventing the birth of unwanted babies who would grow up to be delinquents or criminals because they would not be given good parental care.

Don't be afraid that displeasing the Catholic Church would cost you your reelection, Mr. Senator.

* * *

There is no such thing as a Catholic vote.

Look at Sen. Juan Flavier. The local Catholic Church campaigned against him because of his family planning advocacy.

But Flavier won despite—or even because of—the Church's campaign against him.

Catholics don't listen to their church leaders when it comes to exercising their right of suffrage.

* * *

Can you blame candidates for political office if they approach the New People's Army (NPA) so they can campaign in areas controlled by communist guerillas?

Political candidates don't have a choice. If they don't kiss the hands of the NPA rebels, they will be harassed. Who will protect these candidates from these rebels?

The government should wrest control of NPA-influenced areas so candidates can campaign in those areas without fear of being harassed.

* * *

My sources in the Filipino-Chinese community say kidnapping for ransom goes on unabated.

Many Tsinoys have been kidnapped lately. But the kidnappings have not been reported to the authorities because they find it useless.

You know how much the ransom was paid for these kidnappings? One hundred thousand for each victim!

Quantity, not quality, is the name of the game in the kidnap-for-ransom business.

5 suspected kidnappers killed in shootout

By Christian V. Esguerra

FIVE suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom group were killed in a shootout with police in Pangasinan Sunday night.

The group was allegedly behind the spate of robberies in the province and the abduction of businessman William Hernandez in Mandaluyong City on May 23.

Hernandez had long been released before the shootout, said Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, chief of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response team.

A ransom was paid but Purisima refused to divulge the amount.

The identities of the slain gang members were also not immediately known.

Policemen spotted the suspects while these were onboard a maroon Tamaraw FX van in Sta. Maria town.

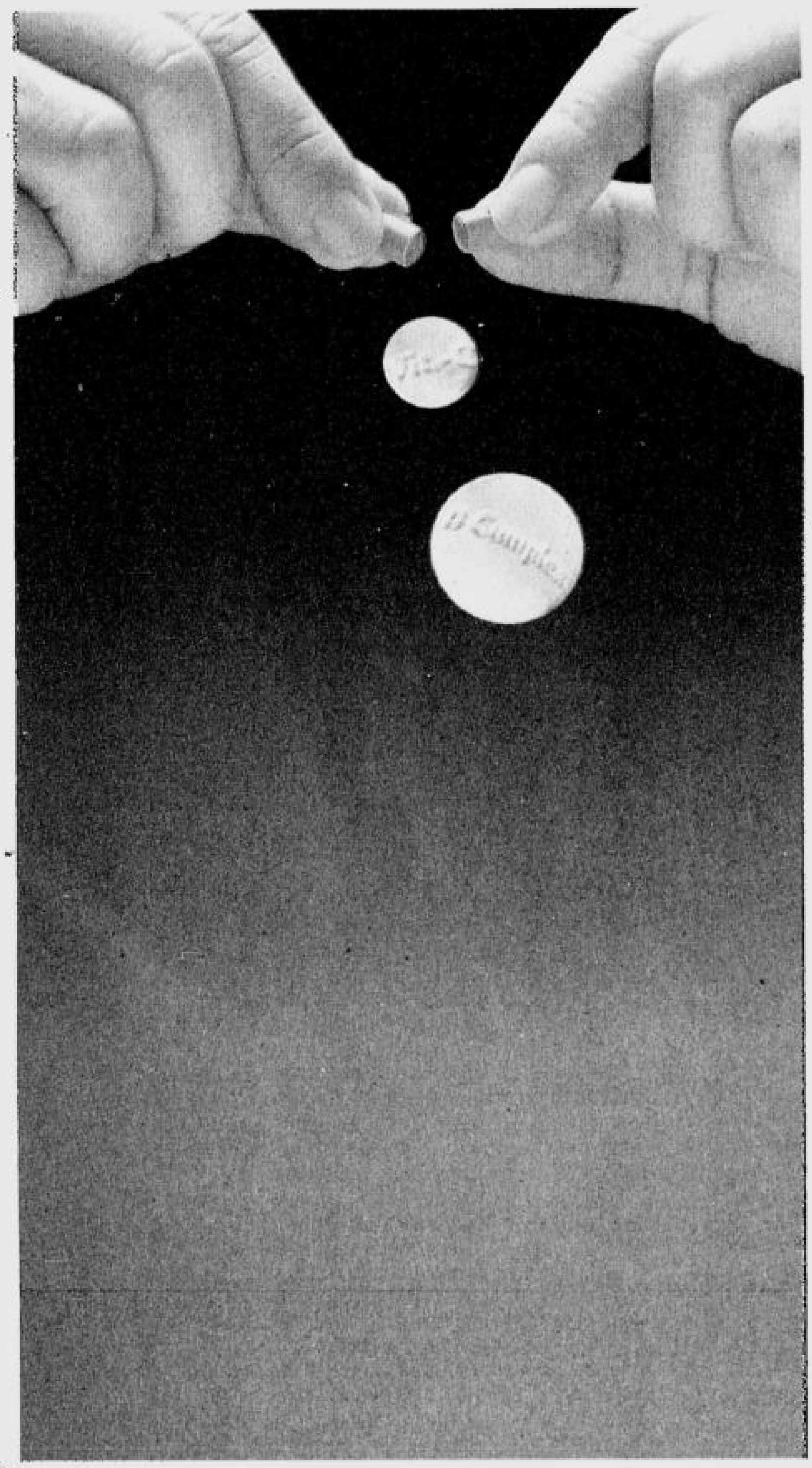
The group refused to surrender and instead engaged lawmen in a running gun battle that ended at a checkpoint in Barangay Cauplasan, Sta. Maria.

Recovered from the group were two pistols and three revolvers.

The police also found from the van documents supposedly containing the group's plan to abduct a wealthy businessman in Mangaldan and another one in Carmen, Pangasinan.

The suspects had also planned to rob a rural bank, the police said.

THE PLAIN TRUTH.



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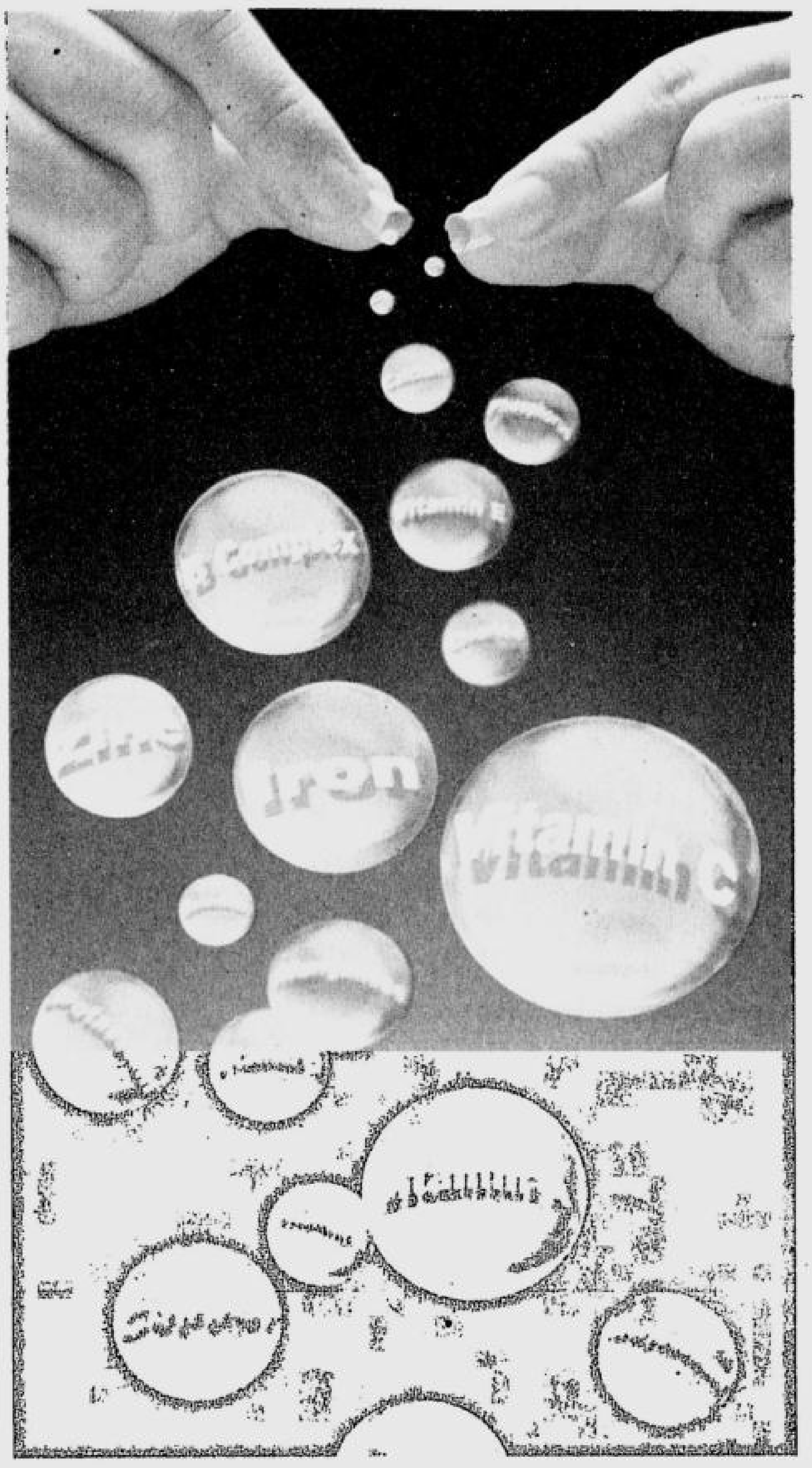
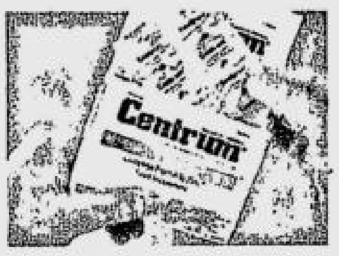


CENTRUM

Sa totoo lang, ang makakatulong sa katawan ay ang tamang kumbinasyon at bilang ng bitamina at mineral.



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Compiled by L. Manguiat

POOL: World Pool Championship 2003; Day 3, 1st Session; 4 p.m. (r); Day 3, 2nd Session; 6 p.m. (r); ESPN; Day 4, 1st Session; 9 p.m.; 2nd Session; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—The action continues from Cardiff, Wales. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Bata leads RP charge

THIRD-RANKED Django Bustamante makes Australia's Phil Reilly (left) do most of the sitting on the way to an impressive 5-2 victory. AP

By Roy Luarca

EFREN "Bata" Reyes stayed unbeaten. So did Lee Van Corteza, Dennis Orcullo, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Marlon Manalo.

The charge of the Filipino brigade is going strong in the 2003 World Pool championship at the Cardiff International Arena in Cardiff, Wales.

Toting 4-0 win-loss cards, Reyes, Corteza and Orcullo are assured of advancing into the money round. Bustamante and Manalo have similar 3-0 slates.

Also in contention after Day 2 of the elimination round are Antonio Lining (3-1), Warren Kiamco (3-1) and Ramil Gallego (2-1).

Only US-based qualifier Ronnie Alcano is in danger of being booted out with his 1-2 card in Reyes' Group 4.

The 49-year-old Reyes, who skipped his induction into the Hall of Fame in the United States to vie in this event, beat John Horsfall (5-2) and Janne Kaipanen (5-4), respectively, to stay on track of regaining the crown he won in 1999.

Matching Reyes' immaculate slate are Southeast Asian Games gold medallist Corteza, who subdued John Papadopolous (5-4) and Athanasios Vrakas (5-1) in Group 10; and Orcullo, a qualifier from Bislig, Surigao del Sur, who whipped Carmine Nania and Ralf Eckert by similar 5-2 scores in Group 14.

Bustamante, last year's losing finalist, hurdled Phil Reilly (5-2) and Thomas Engert in Group 2, matching the feat of former snooker champion Manalo, who edged both Rob McKenna and 2001 world champion Mika Immonen by 5-4 count.

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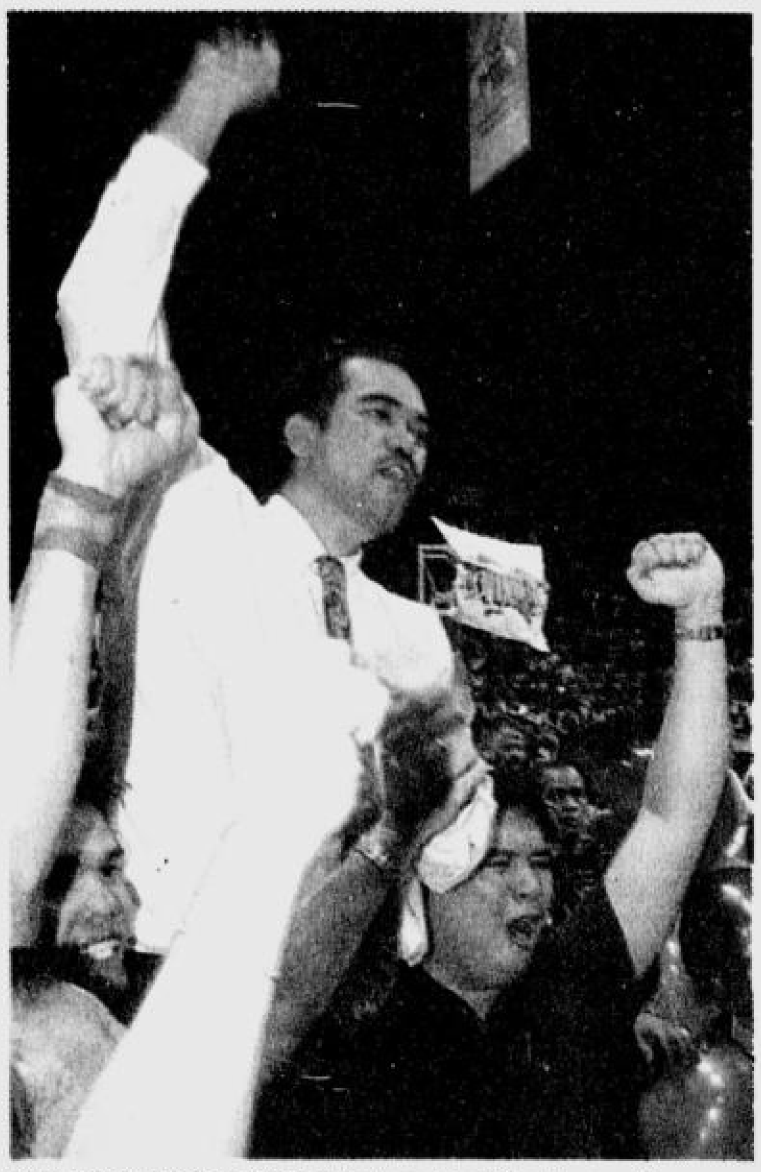


MAN OF THE HOUR: Talk N' Text coach Joel Banal savors the unprecedented feat of the Phone Pals in the All Filipino. RUDY ESPERAS

'Hand of God did it'

By June Navarro

IT WAS destiny waiting to happen.

There were a few bumps along the way but Talk N' Text hurdled all the obstacles en route to the franchise's first-ever Philippine Basketball Association crown after 14 fruitless seasons.

The Phone Pals climbed back from a 0-2 hole with four straight victories against the Coca-Cola Tigers to capture the All Filipino Cup title in Game 6 of their best-of-seven duel Sunday night.

No, Asi Taulava wasn't the lucky charm. The hulking 6-foot-8 pivotman was already there when the Phone Pals started rebuilding a few years ago.

Neither were rookies Jimmy Alapag and Harvey Carey nor veterans Patrick Fran, Bong Ravena, Victor Pablo and Mark Telan, who each unloaded big games for the Phone Pals during the series.

PANGILINAN receives the trophy from Commissioner Eala. RUDY ESPERAS

Probably it was Jojo Manalo, whose luck and name have rubbed off on the Phone Pals ever since he was acquired in a trade with the Tigers in mid-conference.

Manalo was an integral part of the Tigers' title romp over the Alaska Aces last season.

No doubt, these guys made it all happen.

But there's something about coach Joel Banal that made the championship happen for the Manny V. Pangilinan-owned ballclub.

The five straight victories in the eliminations, the quarterfinal win over Barangay Ginebra, the great escape against Alaska in Game 5, the resurrection of the Phone Pals from 0-2 in the finals.

"It was a mixture of sheer hard work and luck. But most of all, it was the hand of God which did it," said Banal, who crashed into the PBA record books as only the second coach to win titles in the NCAA, UAAP, PBL and the PBA.

"Last year, destiny was on our side. This year, *sa kanila naman*. God really must be on their side this time," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Banal steered the Mapua Cardinals to back-to-back NCAA titles in 1990 and 1991, led Hapee-Ateneo to PBL championships last year and guided Ateneo's capture of its first UAAP title in 14 years last season.

The speed with which Banal won his last three titles surpassed that of coach Turo Valenzona, whose feat Banal tied.

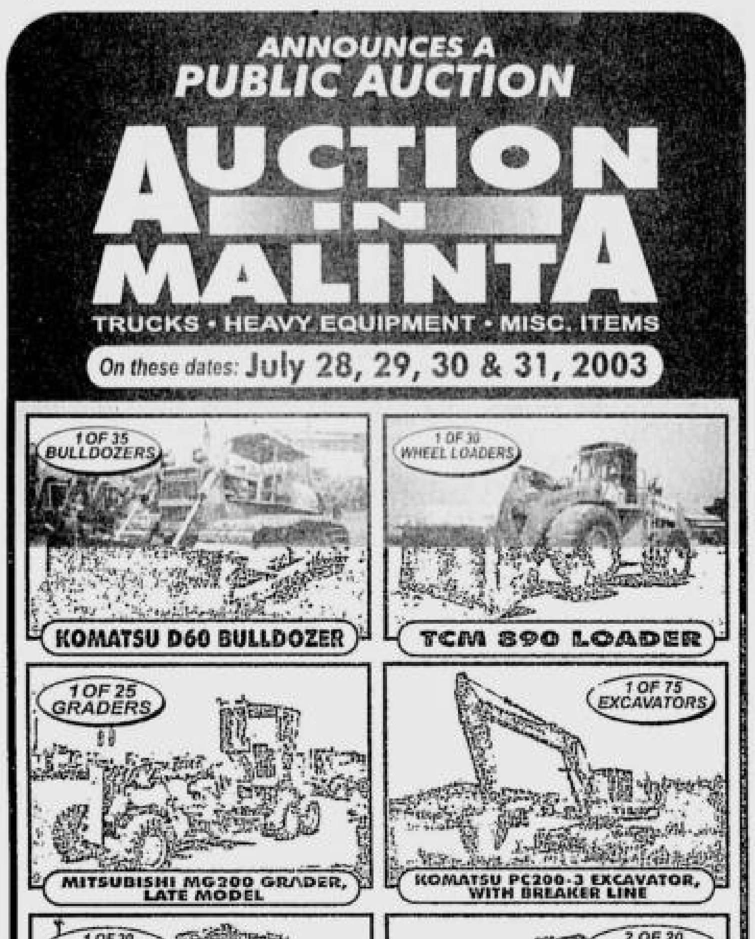
Banal captured three different league titles almost within the same year. Only grand slam coaches in the PBA have accomplished the act in local basketball history.

"But unlike the Ateneo victory where the momentum was ours, this is sweeter, if not the sweetest among the rest," said Banal.

Taulava, who was named Finals MVP, agreed. He is already training his sights on another championship.

"I'll try to help my team win more championships. But right now, I will try to savor this win and think about (more championships) after the celebration has died down," said Taulava.

The celebration won't die right away, not with the Phone Pals enjoying their first championship;



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Banal bags big one

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IN MY column of July 11, I wrote: "In the ongoing Talk N' Text-Coca-Cola playoffs, gut feel tells me TNT might proceed to win the championship."

Paragraphs before that: "Gut feel told me Talk 'N Talk would win Games 3 and 4."

The above was actually the lead paragraph of my column of July 11, the day Talk N' Text was to battle Coca-Cola in Game 5 of the PBA All Filipino title playoffs. TNT won that one in overtime; with a 3-2 lead, the Phone Pals were a win away from dreamland.

Two days later, my gut feel came out right. Talk N' Text nailed its first crown after 21 conferences spanning seven winless years in the PBA. It came with the team's 8th coach, Joel Banal, who replaced American coach Paul Woolpert last March.

I'll be a hypocrite if I say I'm not happy with TNT's victory. Happy because all my hunches just fell into place.

Will I mimic Joel Banal as to also say God was on my side?

Not a bad idea.

But in fairness to Joel, in every win that he scored, he kept invoking divine intervention but with a qualification. He did that again Sunday night:

"It was 50-50," he said. "The boys did half of the championship job, the other half was God's. I kept telling them that 50 percent of our victory would come from us and the remaining 50 percent from God."

The 50 percent Joel was saying was actually the 100 percent performance expected of his players to be dished out at all times. Universal, if not biblical: Let's do our best; God will do the rest.

I guess in the case at hand, I am, I was, like Joel, too.

Fifty percent of the predicting job was reviewing the past games, particularly the first two. Game 2 had struck me as a weird loss for TNT because TNT lost that one by only 3 points. And to think that it missed 21 free throws.

After reviewing it further, I said to myself: "The setback should have alarmed coach Chot Reyes of Coca-Cola more than Joel."

Reason? TNT was playing well in Games 1 and 2 that a victory should not have been far-fetched in both of them; it was the gruesome showing at the stripe in both games that did TNT in.

But, be that as it may—meaning TNT did not improve that much in free throw shooting in Games 3 and 4—it still went on to rewrite PBA history by winning the next four games to win the series, 4-2.

It marked the first time since the PBA's birth in 1975 that a team rallied from 0-2 to win a crown in six games.

It almost did not materialize.

Again, the free throw stripe had looked ready to strip the crown away from TNT's grip.

With 13.8 ticks left, TNT up at 76-75, Asi Taulava had two free throws in his hands. He made the first but missed the second for a 77-75 TNT margin.

Not surprising. Before that, he was 6-of-17 from the line.

And, just seconds before that, Taulava, "The Rock" of TNT's offense but his team's worst free throw shooter, missed two foul shots with TNT up, 76-74.

Rudy Hatfield sank a charity on the next play and then one free throw (Taulava) later, Bong Ravena, the Rookie of the Year in 1991, split his charities for TNT's 78-75 lead with just ticks left in the game.

Ato Morano closed scoring with a charity split, intentionally missing his second gift shot in hopes of a Coke rebound getting converted into a game-tying put-back.

But Phone Pal Victor Pablo foiled that by grabbing Morano's miss just as the game-ending buzzer sounded.

All told, the battle went down to a free throw shooting contest; the last six points of the game were all charities.

If it's any consolation, Coke won by sinking four against TNT's two in the last 37.8 seconds of the game. Johnny Abarrientos' two charities moved Coke to within two points, 74-76, after TNT's Jimmy Alapag fired the shot of the night—a triple with 43.3 seconds remaining.

That's when Taulava missed two charities that could have made it 78-74.

I can't really blame Taulava for those grotesque misses at the line. As the TNT workhorse, he could be overworked and thus prone to miscues. He is actually the team's beast of burden. He played a total of 256 minutes in six games of the series.

In Sunday's Game 6, Taulava had only three points in the first two quarters as TNT trailed by 14 at halftime. At game's end, he had 25 points—three in the last 1:10 of the game that included his bank shot for TNT's 73-71 lead. The go-ahead basket came after Ravena drilled in a triple from a Taulava assist to tie the count at 71-all.

Said Taulava after the game: "It's all about heart and faith. We all had the heart, and coach Banal helped us restore our faith in God's power to help us win the championship."

The triumph was made doubly significant as it came on the eve of the 50th birthday of Manny V. Pangilinan, the TNT owner, who received the championship trophy from Commissioner Noli Eala, whose mike-hog ways stood out anew when sportscaster Sev Sarmenta graciously handed him the microphone during the awards ceremonies. A broadcaster will always be a broadcaster no matter what?

Anyway, Joel Banal, whose titles in the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA make him the first coach to win all four, gave the most poignant speech of the evening: "*Nanay*, I offer you my first PBA championship."

Hearing that, I felt my heart skip a beat.

Paragua ties for 2nd in Paris

FILIPINO Mark Paragua settled for a draw against fellow IM Amir Agheri in the final round Sunday night and wound up tied for second to eight places in the 2003 Championannat de Paris in France.

The 19-year-old Paragua finished with 6.5 points on 5 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss, just half a point behind champion GM Alberto David of Luxembourg.

IM Joseph Sanchez, Paragua's coach-trainer, also drew his last game and closed out the 9-round Swiss Sytem event with 5 points, good for a share of 22nd place.

Bunched with Paragua at 6.5 points were Bulgarian IM Todor Todorov, Ukrainian GM Stanislav Savchenko, Russian GM Andrei Shcekachev, Irish IM Thal Abergel, French GM Manuel Apicella and the Iran-born Bagheri, who defended well against Paragua's repeated attack in their Torre Attack game.

"We hope to do better in the Gallager Open starting July 16 in Spain," said Paragua, the 1998 World Rapid under-14 champ. *Roy Luarca, with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Baguio jin shines in taekwondo tilt

A LITTLE-KNOWN fighter from Baguio City joined the march of national team members into the next round at the start yesterday of the Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Michael Velo overwhelmed Marlon Ventura of Nueva Ecija, 7-1, to make the senior men's finweight semifinals and share the spotlight with RP team mainstays Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz and JR Rivero in the championships which also serves as a tune-up for the RP jins preparing for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and 2004 Athens Olympics.

Cruz, the six-time SEAG gold winner, swept his two matches to also make the finweight semis. He beat Mandy Del Rosario, 6-0, before disposing of Letran's Hector Arellano, 4-0, in the quarterfinals. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

RP jungolfers ready for battle

SAN DIEGO—After spending the entire week practicing in various courses, the 26 Philippine entries for the Callaway Junior World golf championships finally got together Monday (Tuesday in Manila) to attend the traditional Parade of Nations at the Torrey Pines Golf Club course here.

Resplendent in their red shirts and windbreakers, the young Filipinos drew loud cheers as they waived small Philippine flags during the colorful parade where they joined hundreds of representatives from 30 other countries.

Miguel Tabuena, the Little Tiger of Philippine golf, proudly led his teammates who will be slugging it out for the five age-group titles starting Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). *Jong Arcano*

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SPORTSWATCH

Padilla's pistol stays on target

PADILLA

WHEN it comes to pistol shooting, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla is tops. The 38-year-old general manager of Spring Cooking Oil fired 568 points to beat brother Donald (531) and Carolino Gonzales (515) in standard pistol, and then carded 578 points to rout Gilbert Escobar (556) and Donald (546) in the center fire competition of the National Open championships at the PSC range in Fort Bonifacio over the weekend. Donald Padilla and Arthur Cabinian actually finished with identical 546 scores but Padilla tallied 144 in the shootout to clinch third by eight points. Veteran Susan Aguado, Maj. Noel Detoyato, Rachel Marie Capili and Emerito Concepcion also bagged gold medals in the women's sports pistol, PNSA modified center fire, women's air rifle and men's air rifle events, respectively.

Kwarta Padala keeps NBL lead

M. LHUILLIER Kwarta Padala of Cebu tightened its hold of the lead by posting two victories last weekend in the National Basketball League (NBL) national championship at the Gov. Angel Medina gym here. Longtime Philippine resident Darryl Smith canned two charities in the last 42 seconds to lift the Cebuanos past host Compak Shineway-Ozamiz, 72-69, Sunday after beating Air Philippines-Bacolod, 88-81, the night before. MayniLA whipped Air Philippines, 95-79, Sunday to bounce back from a 69-94 rout suffered in the hands of the Ozamiz boys last Saturday. With the twin wins, the Cebuanos raised their win-loss record to 7-1 in the tourney supported by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, Cebu Ferries, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, SuperCat, Gatorade, Sinners and Saints, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Jaguar KTV, Panasonic and Molten Basketball. MayniLA kept solo second at 8-3.

Eala, Phone Pals PSA guests

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and technical committee chief Perry Martinez will be the guests in today's session of the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavillion. They will be joined by newly crowned members of All Filipino Cup champion Talk N' Text in the 10:30 a.m. session. The public sports program is sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor.

PCC holds anniversary derby

THE AIR-CONDITIONED Pasay City Cockpit holds its "Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" at 2 p.m. today. The three-day cockfest being sponsored by Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer will feature the second round on Thursday and the championship round on Saturday. For details, contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Letran, Jose Rizal share NCAA lead

STANDINGS

Teams (W-L) Mapua 3-1, Letran 3-1, JRU 3-1, SSC-R 2-2, Perpetual 2-2, San Beda 2-2, PCU 1-3, St. Benilde 0-4

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)

11:30 a.m.—SSC-R vs Mapua (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (srs/jrs)

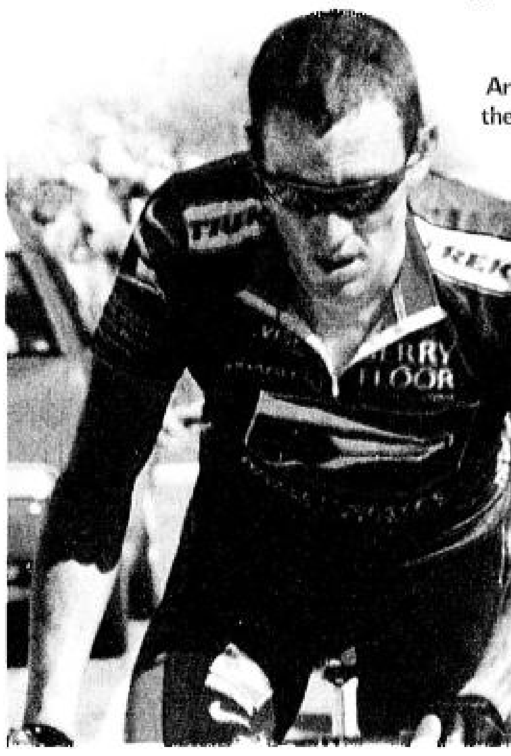
By June Navarro

LETRAN has sent a strong message that it cannot be taken for granted in this year's National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball wars.

Riding on the heroics of Ronjay Enrile, the Knights stunned the defending champion San Sebastian Stags, 73-64, yesterday to gain a share of the lead with idle Mapua and last-game winner Jose Rizal University at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Jose Rizal edged College of St. Benilde, 78-76, in the other senior encounter to join Mapua and Letran at the top with 3-1 records.

Enrile, the NCAA's junior MVP in 2000, keyed the Knights' fiery windup, hitting five of his game-high 18 points in the stretch.



PACESETTER Armstrong climbs the l'Alpe D'Huez. REUTERS

Armstrong in command

L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France—For the first time on this Tour de France, Lance Armstrong took the overall lead Sunday, but it came at a price: He showed his rivals that he's not his dominant self.

The four-time champion struggled up the legendary ascent to the Alpine ski resort of L'Alpe d'Huez, a climb that just two years ago witnessed one of his greatest triumphs.

The 31-year-old Texan placed third in yesterday punishing stage, 2 minutes 12 seconds behind Iban Mayo of Spain, to take the overall leader's yellow jersey.

With Mayo racing ahead, Armstrong stayed back to battle off attacks from Spain's Joseba Beloki and American Tyler Hamilton, who is riding with a collarbone fractured in a crash on the Tour's second day.

Alexandre Vinokourov of Team Telekom was second, 1 minute 45 seconds behind Mayo.

Beloki, the 2002 Tour runner-up, is second behind Armstrong in the overall standings. *AP*

Perry makes it 3

MILWAUKEE—Kenny Perry sank a three-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a second straight 66 Sunday to win by one stroke over Steve Allan and Heath Slocum at the Greater Milwaukee Open. Already the winner of the Colonial and Memorial tournaments, Perry finished with a 12-under 268 total. *AP*

Zabaleta triumphs

BASTAD, Sweden—Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta downed Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador, 6-3, 6-4, to win the $422,000 ATP Swedish Open on clay at Bastad Tennis Stadium Sunday. *AP*

Marzan, 63

PORFERIO P. Marzan, Sr., father of Shell cager Jun Marzan, died last week. He was 63. His body lies in state in Alaminos, Pangasinan. Interment will tomorrow.

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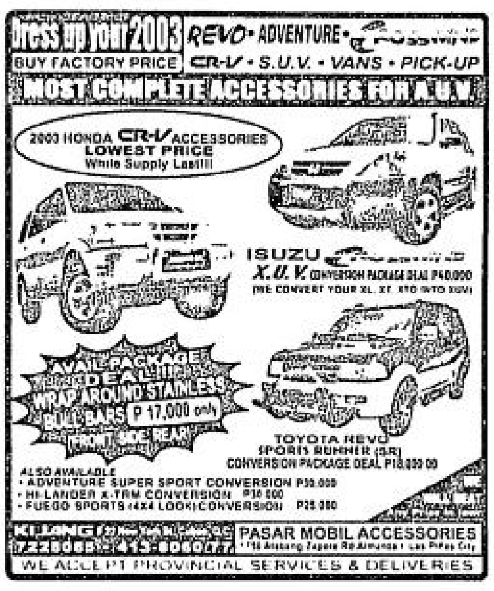
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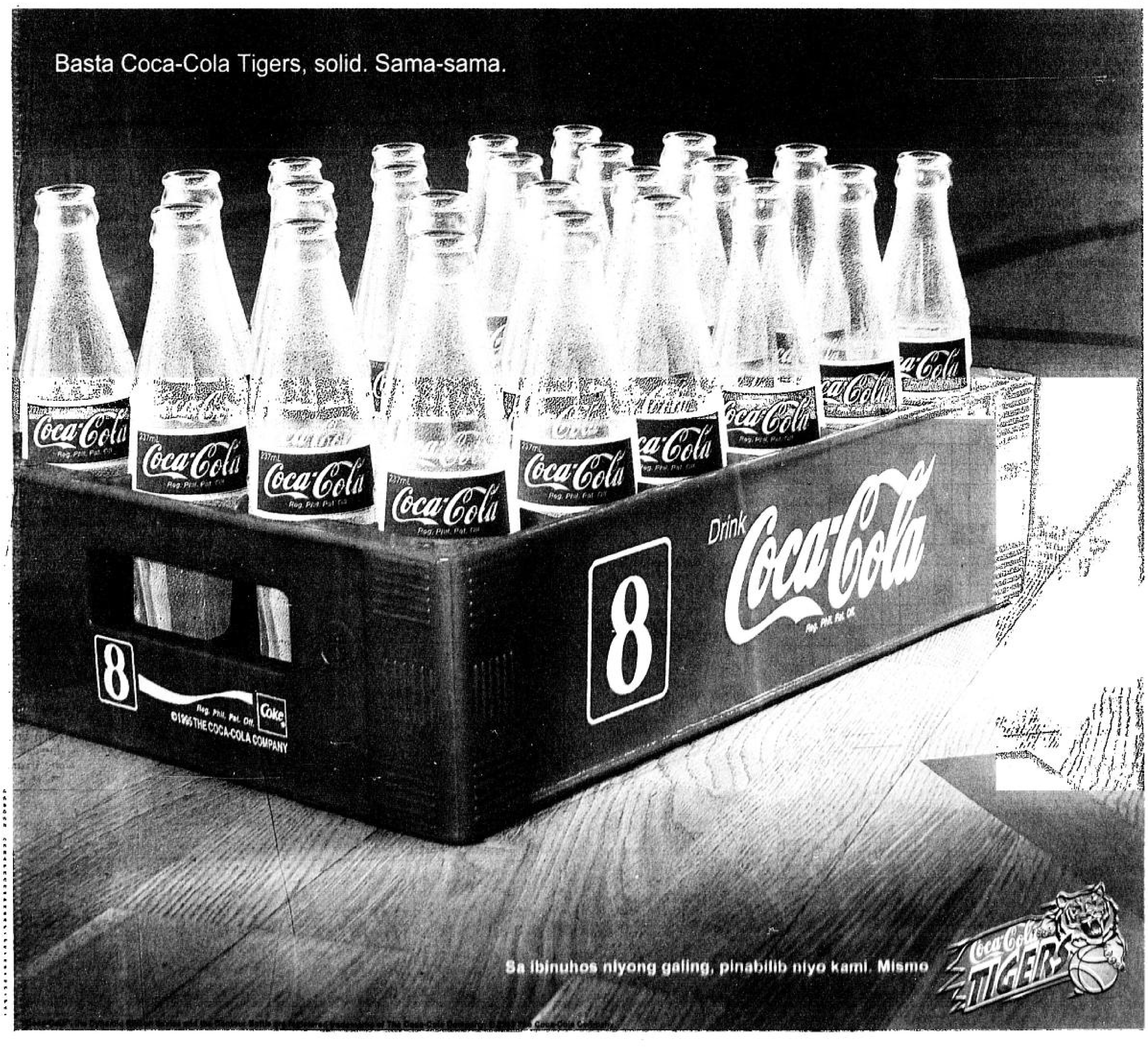
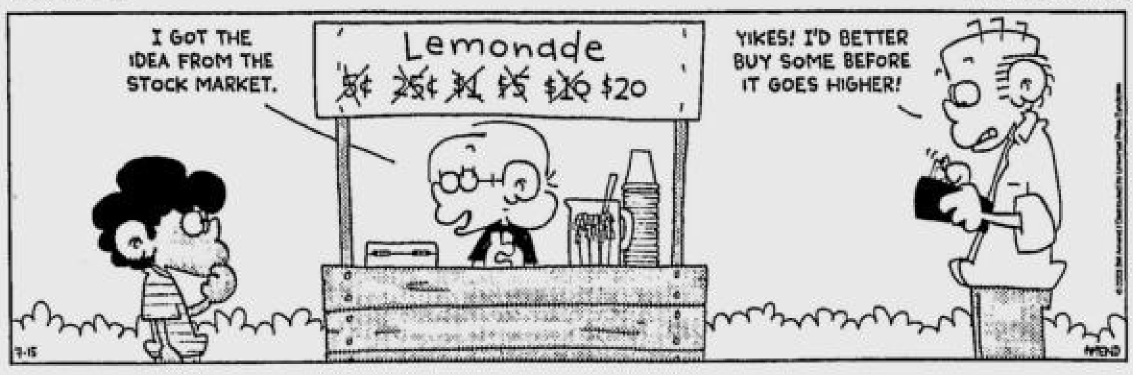
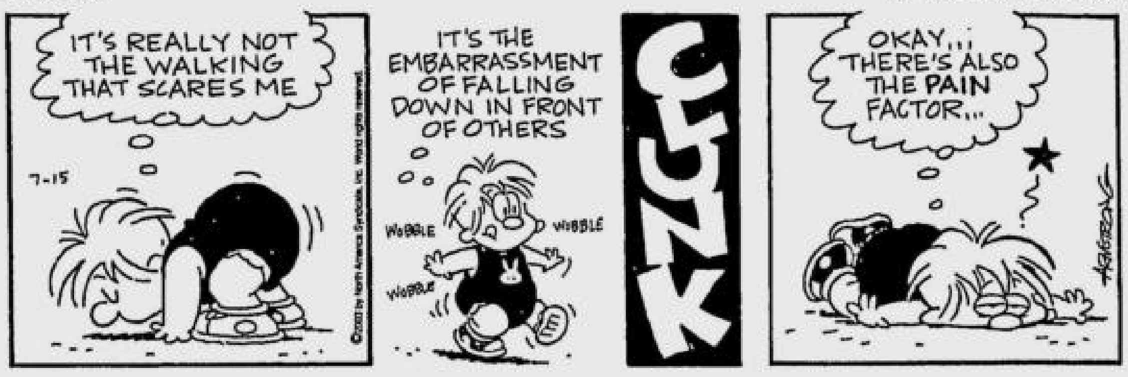

Basta Coca-Cola Tigers, solid. Sama-sama.
Coca-Cola
Drink Coca-Cola
8
©1996 THE COCA-COLA COMPANY
Sa ibinuhos niyong galing, pinabilib niyo kami. Mismo
Coca-Cola TIGERS

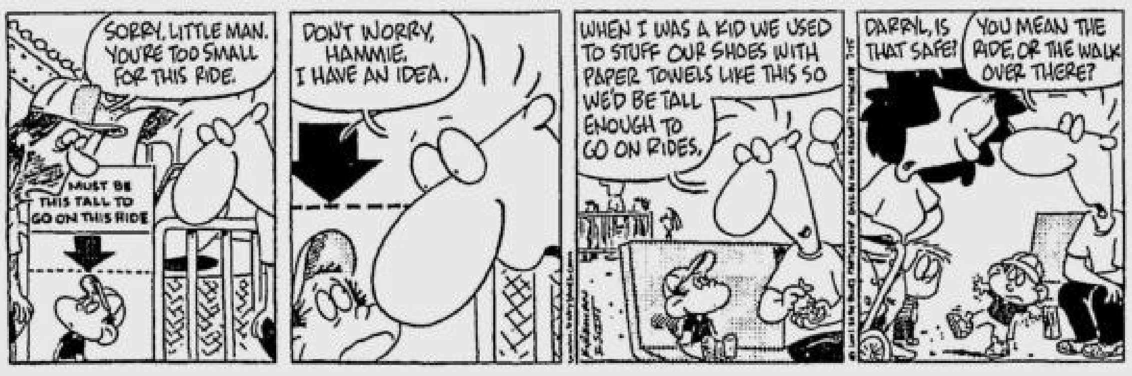
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I GOT THE IDEA FROM THE STOCK MARKET.
Lemonade ~~5¢~~ ~~25¢~~ ~~$1~~ ~~$5~~ ~~$10~~ $20
YIKES! I'D BETTER BUY SOME BEFORE IT GOES HIGHER!
7-15
AMEND

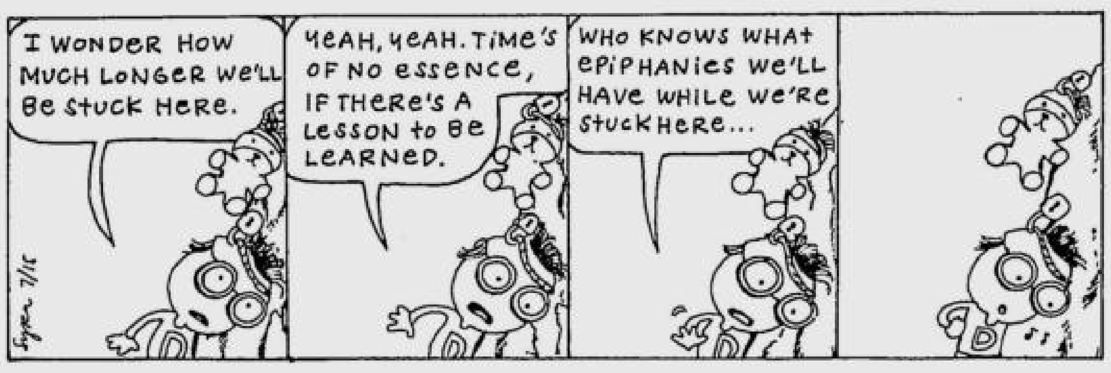
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S REALLY NOT THE WALKING THAT SCARES ME
7-15
IT'S THE EMBARRASSMENT OF FALLING DOWN IN FRONT OF OTHERS
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
CLUNK
OKAY... THERE'S ALSO THE PAIN FACTOR...
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SORRY, LITTLE MAN. YOU'RE TOO SMALL FOR THIS RIDE.
MUST BE THIS TALL TO GO ON THIS RIDE
DON'T WORRY, HAMMIE. I HAVE AN IDEA.
WHEN I WAS A KID WE USED TO STUFF OUR SHOES WITH PAPER TOWELS LIKE THIS SO WE'D BE TALL ENOUGH TO GO ON RIDES.
DARRYL, IS THAT SAFE?
YOU MEAN THE RIDE, OR THE WALK OVER THERE?

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER WE'LL BE STUCK HERE.
YEAH, YEAH. TIME'S OF NO ESSENCE, IF THERE'S A LESSON TO BE LEARNED.
WHO KNOWS WHAT EPIPHANIES WE'LL HAVE WHILE WE'RE STUCK HERE...
Lyra 7/15

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are naturally dynamic and inspirational to others. You are aware that you have an influence on people. You know how to enthuse and motivate them. This makes you a very useful member of society. This year, many aspects of your life will complete their cycle in order to create room for new ones to begin.
Birthdate of: Iris Murdoch, writer; Jesse Ventura, wrestler/politician; Forest Whitaker, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong desire to teach a child or someone younger than you how the world works. Your aim is to improve this person's mind and his or her ability to cope with life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Use your practical skills today to clean up garbage, organize closets and laundry areas, deal with plumbing and make repairs where needed. You can get a lot done.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're determined to make someone see your point of view today. Your arguments are persuasive and compelling. You fervently believe what you say. Who can resist you?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to make major improvements where you work today. These might boost future profits or enhance your ability to do your job in a better way. It's important that you believe in your ability .

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel romantically attracted to someone today. Similarly, you might insist on doing something in order to have fun and enjoy yourself. (You can't hold back.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are more interested in what goes on beneath the surface of events today. Family secrets might come out. You can successfully grill others to learn what you want to know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might meet someone who has a great influence upon you today. This individual could change your thinking and steer you in a completely new direction. Stay tuned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Communications with bosses and important people strongly affect you today. You see things in an entirely new light. New ways of doing things are now possible for you.

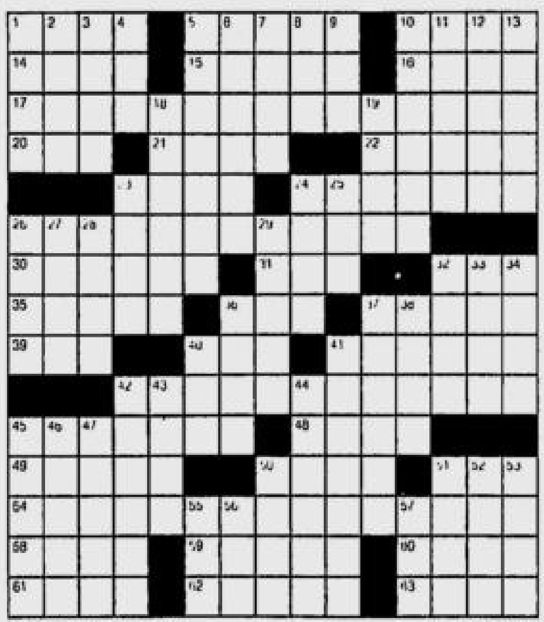
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a desire to study the occult or ancient subjects today. Secret matters intrigue you now. You want to learn more about the mysteries of life. And why not?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to research and ferret out truths or answers to old problems is fabulous today. Your mind is like a steel trap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): By nature, you are a networker. You love to put people in touch with each other. Today you can rouse the troops and send them marching!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In some fashion, you can make repairs at work that really make a difference to everyone—yourself included. Whatever you do will benefit everyone for a long time.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
7/15/03

ACROSS
1 Hammerhead
5 Archibald and Thurmond
10 Northern Scandinavian
14 Complexion problem
15 Of sheep
16 Taj Mahal site
17 Secret undertaking
20 Even one
21 Circle sections
22 Intuit
23 Highland hillside
24 Retaliates
26 Secret warning
30 Note from home
31 Islet
32 Poetic form
35 Left aboard
36 Dr. of rap
37 "Rhapsodie Espagnole" composer
39 Chaney of film
40 Place
41 Breakfast food
42 Secret program
45 Winner of the first French Open
48 Singer Redding
49 Old World lizard
50 All tied
51 Army pvts.
54 Secret operative
58 Earl __ Biggers
59 Pickling agent
60 Impulse
61 Impresses
62 Waldorf, e.g.
63 Ooze

DOWN
1 Agouti's cousin
2 Bus. sch. subj.
3 Green state?
4 Born in Paris
5 Sports contract clause
6 Shorebird with an upward curving bill
7 Pointed ends
8 WSW opp.
9 Sun. homily
10 Dormant
11 Wine process
12 Common writing
13 Window parts
18 Most unusual
19 On the briny
23 Make less clear
24 Racer Luyendyk
25 Old pro
26 Cutlet meat
27 Montreal player
28 PC picture
29 "The Lost Galleon" poet
32 Pizzeria fixture
33 No longer quick
34 Ms. Fitzgerald
36 Weekend cowboy
37 Saskatchewan capital
38 God of war
40 L.A. summer hrs.
41 Provided the food for
42 Four-base hits
43 Munich's river
44 Nine-day devotion
45 Formula One driver Niki
46 Nixon's V.P.
47 Core group
50 Wicked
51 "Pretty Woman" man
52 "Picnic" playwright
53 Part of a plan
55 Rather's network
56 Mouths: Lat
57 Gloomy fellow?

Monday's Puzzle Solved

E	G	G	S	■	H	I	T	C	H	■	O	W	E	S
F	O	I	E	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	R	I	D	E
F	U	N	N	Y	M	O	N	E	Y	■	A	L	G	A
S	T	A	T	U	E	■	D	A	M	O	C	L	E	S
■	■	■	■	L	L	D	■	M	A	N	L	Y	■	■
D	E	W	Y	E	Y	E	D	■	K	E	E	N	E	R
A	R	I	E	S	■	N	A	P	E	S	■	I	R	A
V	E	S	T	■	R	I	F	E	R	■	G	L	A	D
I	C	H	■	H	U	M	O	R	■	B	A	L	S	A
S	T	Y	R	O	N	■	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	R
■	■	W	I	N	O	S	■	S	A	O	■	■	■	■
C	H	A	C	K	U	P	S	■	P	A	S	S	A	I
R	A	S	H	■	T	I	C	K	Y	T	A	C	K	Y
A	C	H	E	■	O	N	A	I	R	■	F	A	I	R
B	E	Y	S	■	F	E	R	M	I	■	E	D	N	A

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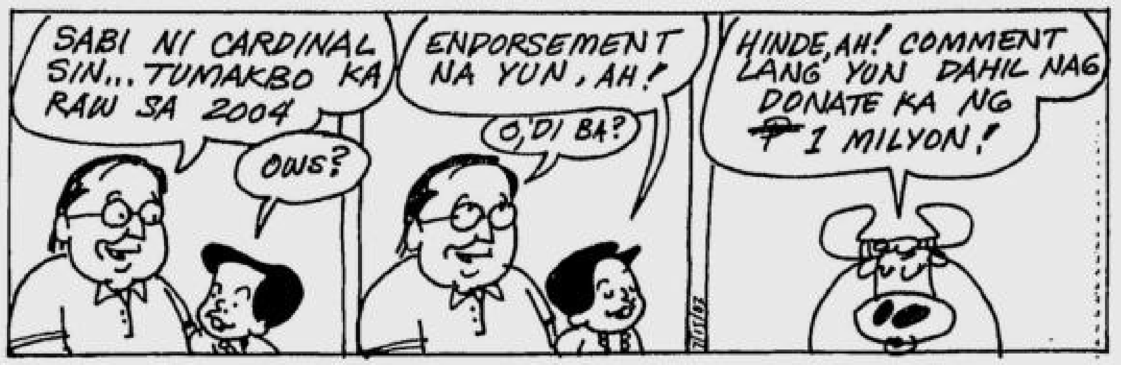
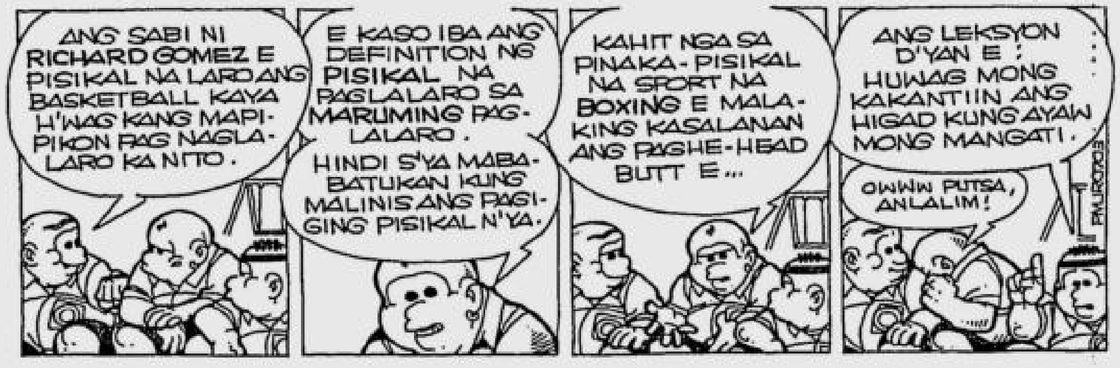
7/15/03

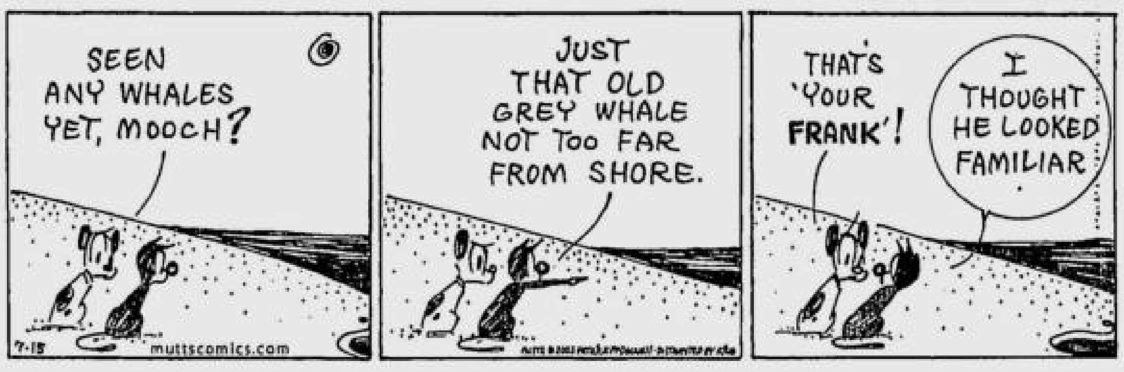
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SABI NI CARDINAL SIN... TUMAKBO KA RAW SA 2004
OWS?
ENDORSEMENT NA YUN, AH!
O, DI BA?
HINDE, AH! COMMENT LANG YUN DAHIL NAG DONATE KA NG ₱1 MILYON!

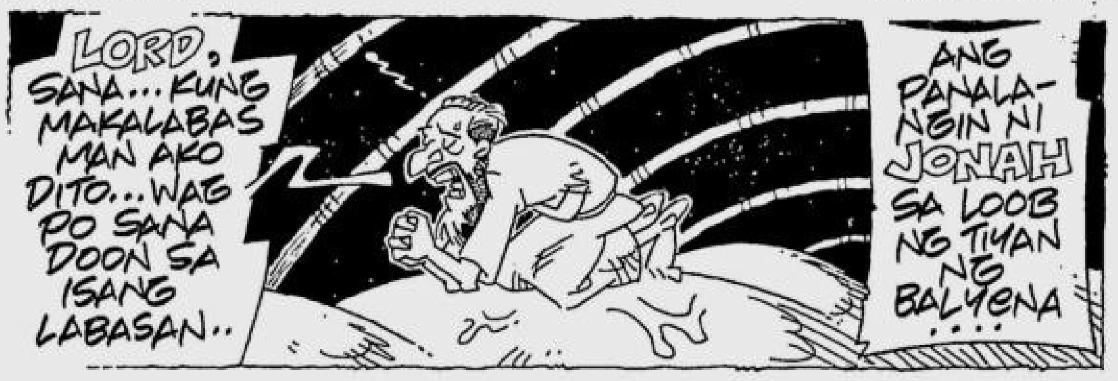
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SABI NI RICHARD GOMEZ E PISIKAL NA LARO ANG BASKETBALL KAYA H'WAG KANG MAPIPIKON PAG NAGLALARO KA NITO.
E KASO IBA ANG DEFINITION NG PISIKAL NA PAGLALARO SA MARUMING PAGLALARO.
HINDI S'YA MABABATUKAN KUNG MALINIS ANG PAGIGING PISIKAL N'YA.
KAHIT NGA SA PINAKA-PISIKAL NA SPORT NA BOXING E MALAKING KASALANAN ANG PAGHE-HEAD BUTT E...
ANG LEKSYON D'YAN E: HUWAG MONG KAKANTIIN ANG HIGAD KUNG AYAW MONG MANGATI.
OWWW PUTSA, ANLALIM!

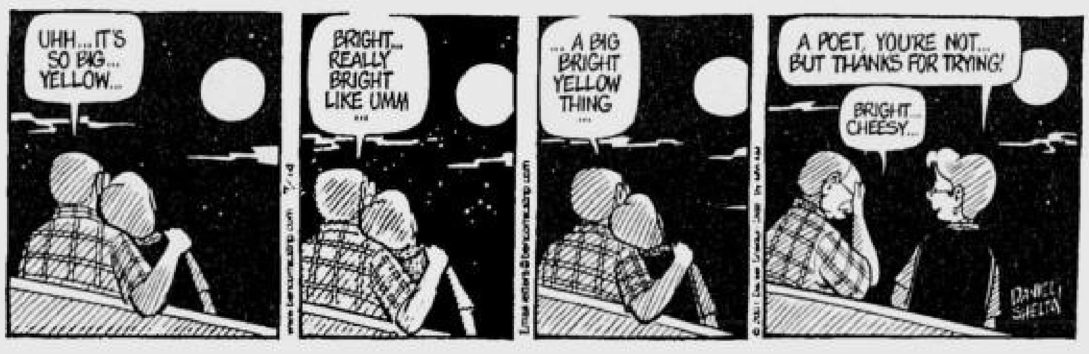
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SEEN ANY WHALES YET, MOOCH?
7-15
muttscomics.com
JUST THAT OLD GREY WHALE NOT TOO FAR FROM SHORE.
THAT'S 'YOUR FRANK'!
I THOUGHT HE LOOKED FAMILIAR

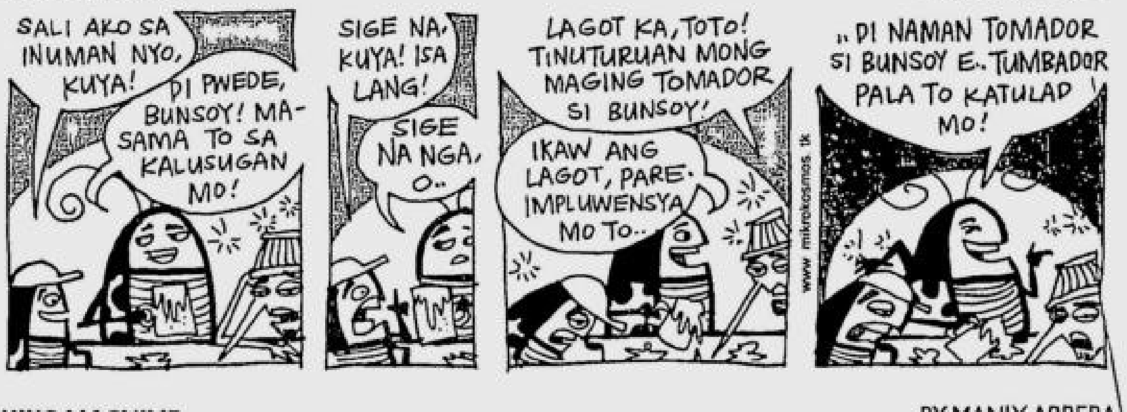
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD, SANA... KUNG MAKALABAS MAN AKO DITO... WAG PO SANA DOON SA ISANG LABASAN..
ANG PANALANGIN NI JONAH SA LOOB NG TIYAN NG BALYENA....

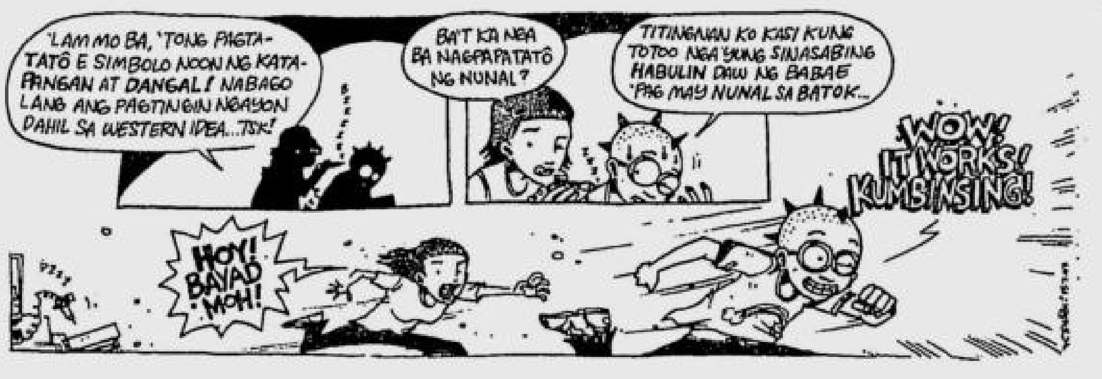
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


UHH... IT'S SO BIG... YELLOW...
BRIGHT... REALLY BRIGHT LIKE UMM...
... A BIG BRIGHT YELLOW THING...
A POET, YOU'RE NOT... BUT THANKS FOR TRYING!
BRIGHT... CHEESY...
DANIEL SHELTON

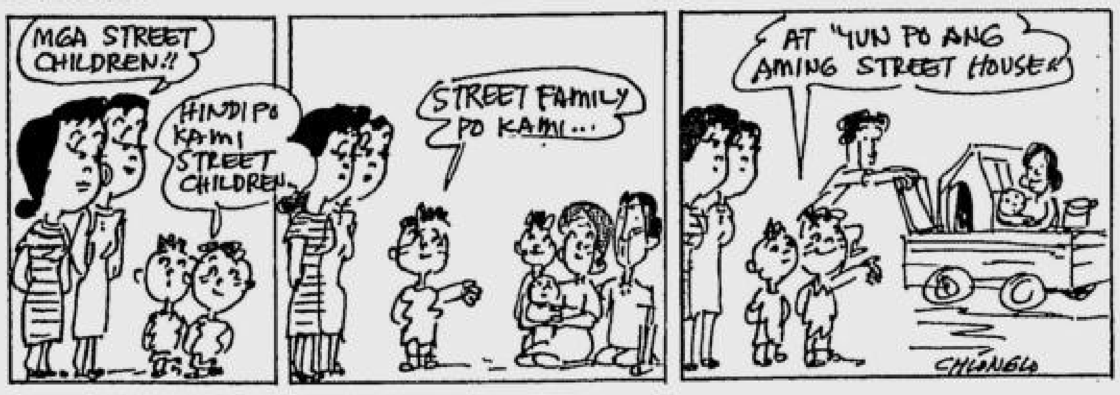
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SALI AKO SA INUMAN NYO, KUYA!
DI PWEDE, BUNSOY! MASAMA TO SA KALUSUGAN MO!
SIGE NA, KUYA! ISA LANG!
SIGE NA NGA, O..
LAGOT KA, TOTO! TINUTURUAN MONG MAGING TOMADOR SI BUNSOY!
IKAW ANG LAGOT, PARE. IMPLUWENSYA MO TO..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
.. DI NAMAN TOMADOR SI BUNSOY E.. TUMBADOR PALA TO KATULAD MO!

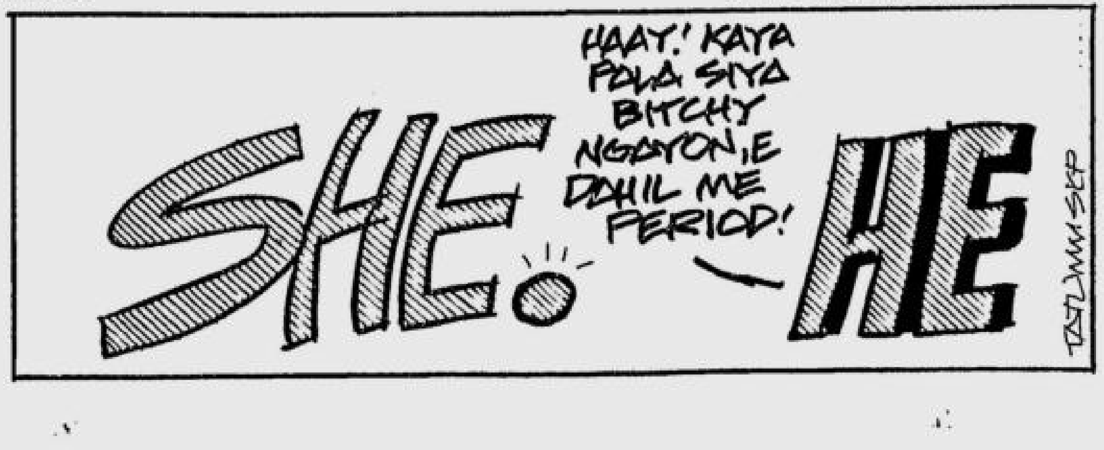
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM MO BA, 'TONG PAGTATATÔ E SIMBOLO NOON NG KATAPANGAN AT DANGAL! NABAGO LANG ANG PAGTINGIN NGAYON DAHIL SA WESTERN IDEA... TSK!
BA'T KA NGA BA NAGPAPATATÔ NG NUNAL?
TITINGNAN KO KASI KUNG TOTOO NGA 'YUNG SINASABING HABULIN DAW NG BABAE 'PAG MAY NUNAL SA BATOK...
WOW! IT WORKS! KUMBINSING!
HOY! BAYAD MOH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA STREET CHILDREN!!
HINDI PO KAMI STREET CHILDREN
STREET FAMILY PO KAMI...
AT 'YUN PO ANG AMING STREET HOUSE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SHE.
HAAY! KAYA PALA SIYA BITCHY NGAYON, E DAHIL ME PERIOD!
HE

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TERMINATOR 3	1 TERMINATOR 3	ArtFilm 1 DANCER IN THE DARK 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TERMINATOR 3 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40	THX 1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 TERMINATOR 3 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 HULK 12:50, 3:20	2 TERMINATOR 3
3 THE HUNTED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	Onstage TERMINATOR 3 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TERMINATOR 3 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20	3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TERMINATOR 3	4 DUMB & DUMBERER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE HUNTED 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 THE HUNTED
	5 TERMINATOR 3		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00	5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
	6 28 DAYS LATER			
	7 THE HUNTED			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333.** Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	PIGLET THE MOVIE
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
8	THE HUNTED
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	28 DAYS LATER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ① ② & ③

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TERMINATOR-3
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	THE HUNTED
5	TERMINATOR-3
6	TERMINATOR-3

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	JUST MARRIED

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

TERMINATOR-3

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
2	THE HULK

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	DANCER IN THE DARK
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
9 (DOLBY)	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2	THE HULK
3	THE HUNTED
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
8	
9	

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
5	THE HUNTED

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TERMINATOR-3

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TERMINATOR-3

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	JAILBIRD
Lords	BETTER THAN SEX
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	XEREX
2	BERTUD NG PUTIK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	HULING BIRHEN
2	TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
5 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	THE HUNTED

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0928

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ADAPTATION
2 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	28 DAYS LATER
2 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE HUNTED
2	THE HULK
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4 (DTS)	SO CLOSE

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE
2 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALLS
3	BIGAY HILIG

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3 (DTS)	HINOG SA PILIT
4	RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ANGEL SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TUMITIBK KUMIKIROT
3 (DTS)	THE EYE
4	CONFESSION OF DANGEROUS MIND

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HIRAM
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0730

1	A MAN APART
2	WISH MASTER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	PIGLET THE MOVIE

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ABANDON
3 (DTS ES)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	MUNTING TINIG
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Level 4

Festival Supermall

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3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
8	HULK

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1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	HULK
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	THE HUNTED
9	HULK
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
12	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	THE HUNTED
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	MUNTING TINIG
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HULK
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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6331801 • 6329401

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	THE HUNTED
6	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
7	DUMB & DUMBERERER
8	28 DAYS LATER
9	HULK
10	TERMINATOR 3
11	ANG TANGING INA
12	HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	THE HUNTED
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	TERMINATOR 3

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1	DANCER IN THE DARK
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULK
7	THE HUNTED
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	28 DAYS LATER
10	DUMB & DUMBERER

SM CITY CEBU

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
7	HULK
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY ILOILO

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1	ANG KAPITBAHAY
2	CLOSED
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	HULK
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	CLOSED
8	MGA MUNTING TINIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	THE HUNTED
4	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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1	THE HUNTED
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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2514302

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	HULK
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3

SM BICUTAN

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3

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1	TERMINATOR 3 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TERMINATOR 3
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5	THE HUNTED
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	28 DAYS LATER

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2	TERMINATOR 3
3	HULK
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	THE HUNTED
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	TERMINATOR 3

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6	TERMINATOR 3

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2	TERMINATOR 3
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4	THE HUNTED
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	TERMINATOR 3

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3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	TERMINATOR 3

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2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	SMALL VOICES
6	BALIKATAN

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2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE GURU
6	SMALL VOICES

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Papin's sex . . .

From page A26

He also said Papin's appeal was filed out of time.

Under the rules, the appeal should be made within 15 days from receipt of the resolution or of the denial of the motion for reconsideration or reinvestigation, if a motion has been filed.

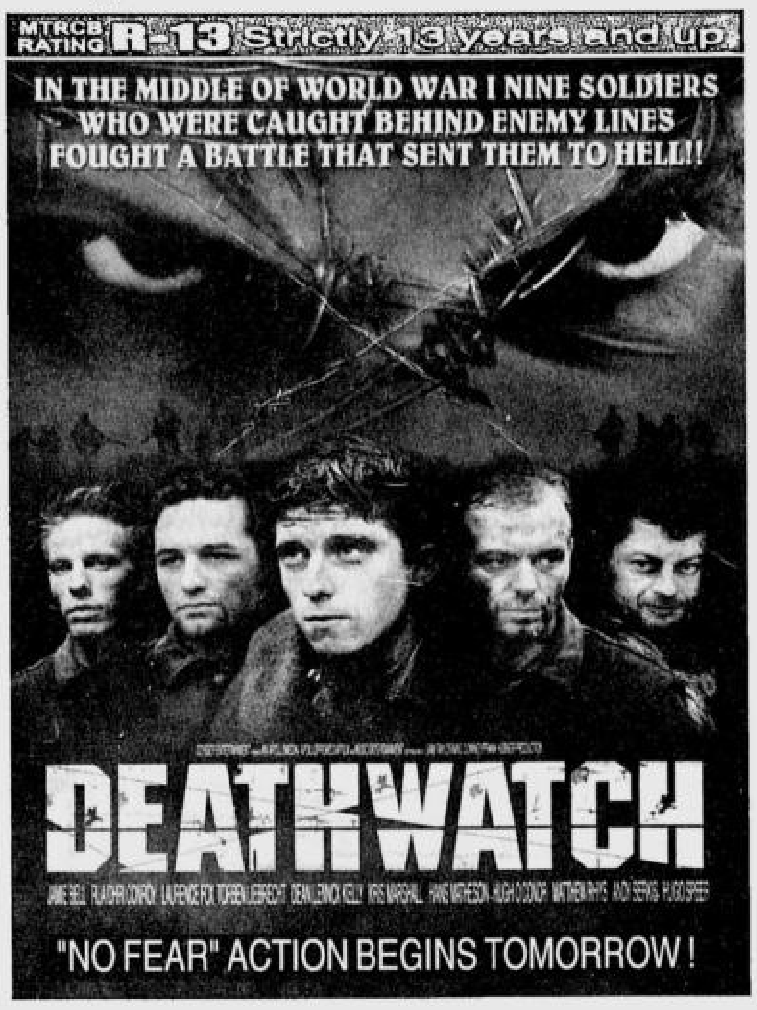
The court said the petition for review was filed with the RSPO on June 4, or 21 days after receipt of a copy of the resolution in question, which was May 14.

The court also dismissed Papin's petition because she did not furnish the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Camarines Sur with a copy of the petition, and the petition was not accompanied by legible true copies of the resolution appealed.

Rances said he suffered a lot because of Papin's complaint.

His brother in the United States is still recuperating in a hospital after undergoing a heart bypass, which Rances said was a result of the vice governor's complaint.

Rances said his brother learned of the complaint when it was reported on the Filipino Channel in the US.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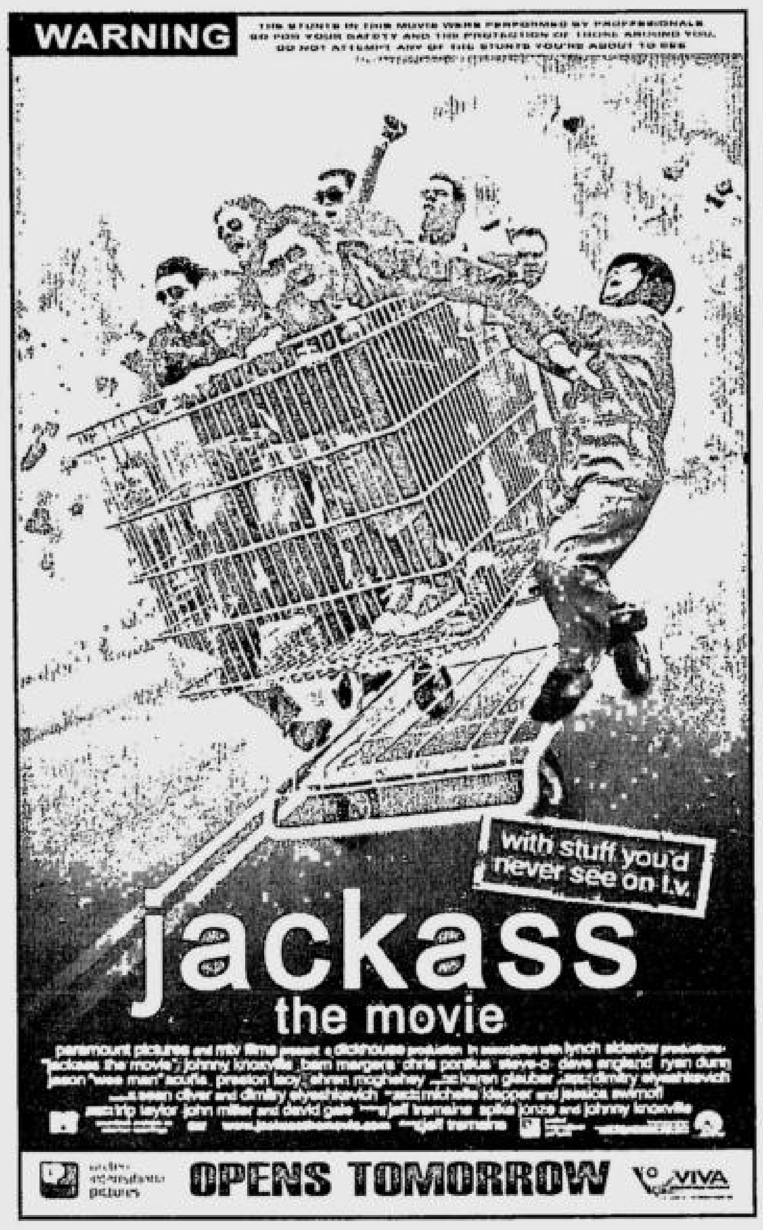
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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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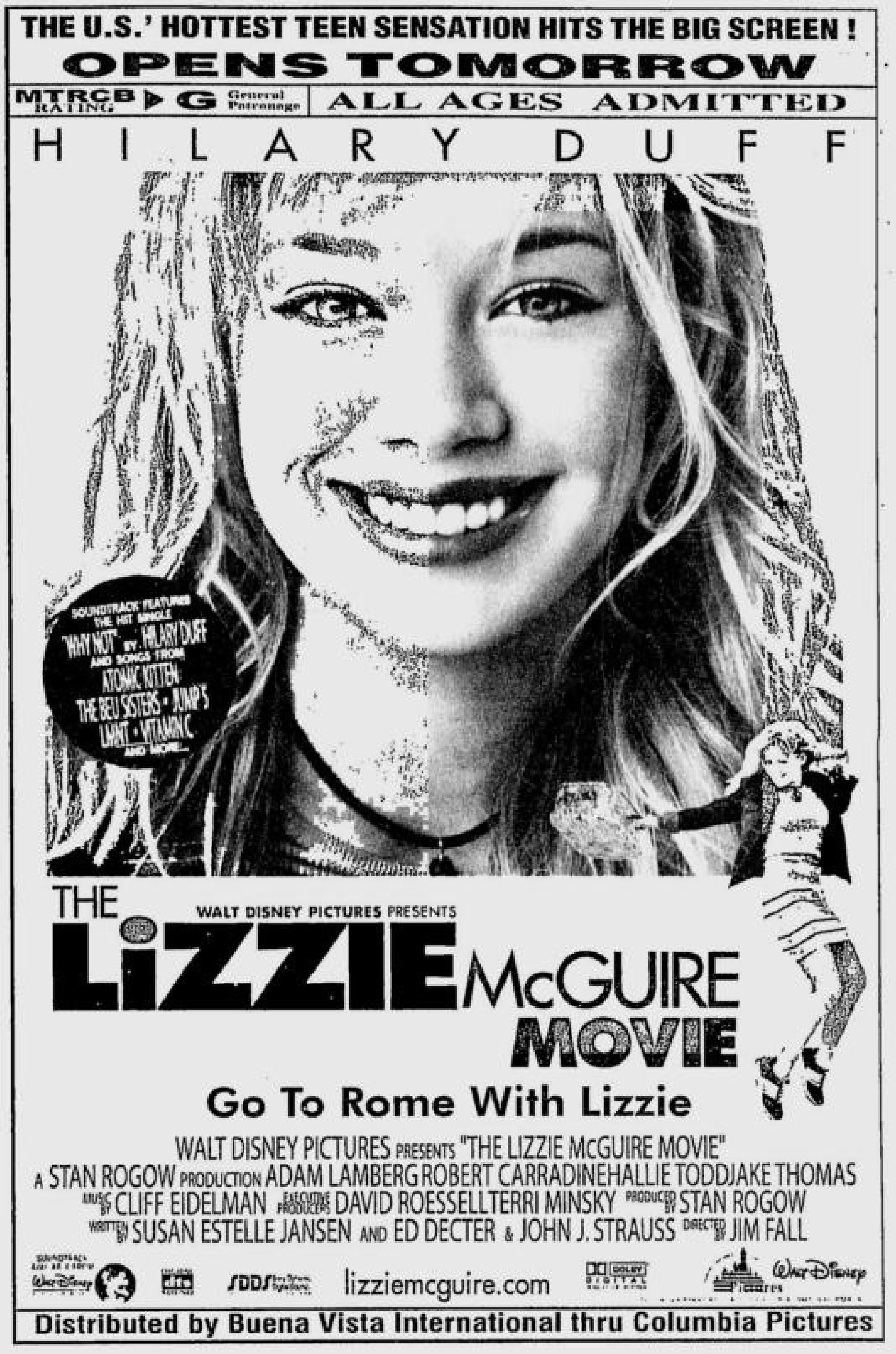
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HULK
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	HINOG SA PILIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGLES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-12	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-14	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-15	DUMB & DUMBERER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	CHARLIE S ANGELS 2
CINEMA 2	THE EYE
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	TUMTIBOK KUMIKIROT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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WRITTEN BY SUSAN ESTELLE JANSEN AND ED DECTER & JOHN J. STRAUSS DIRECTED BY JIM FALL
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A small-town librarian (John Simm) falls head-over-heels with a beautiful stranger (Cristina Ricci). She is secretly enmeshed in a darkly complex web of intrigue and deceit between her con artist-mentor (John Hurt) and a sleazy millionaire (Kyle MacLachlan). Seeking solace in the bright albeit naive embrace of her loopy new lover, but it's anybody's guess whether they'll emerge unscathed from this high-stakes game

Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

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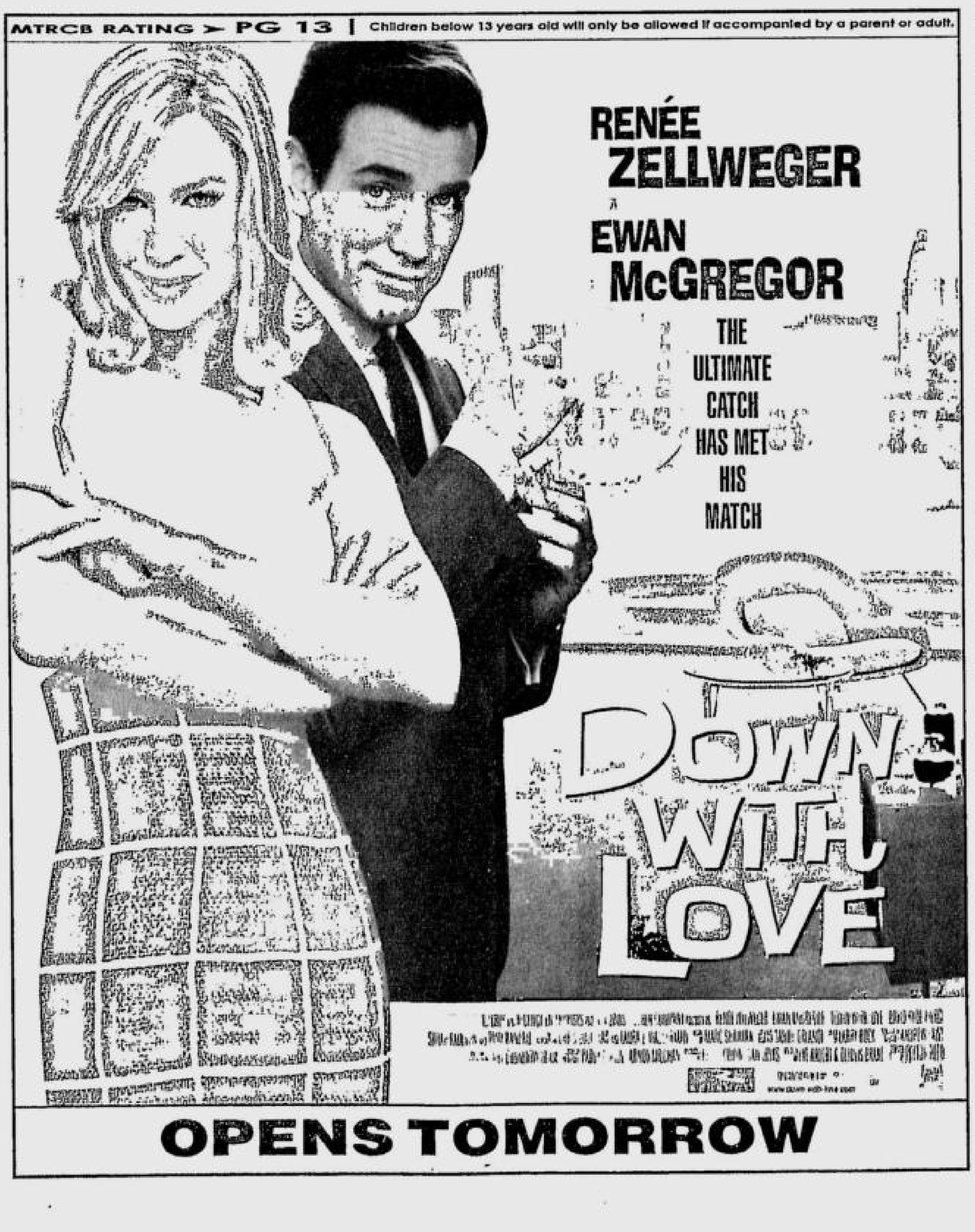
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RENÉE ZELLWEGER
EWAN McGREGOR
THE ULTIMATE CATCH HAS MET HIS MATCH
DOWN WITH LOVE
OPENS TOMORROW

Five for the show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY pop music buffs are planning to watch "Greatest Hits: Just Once; The Concert" at Araneta Coliseum on Aug. 2. Their reason is simple: The show stars five of the most talented and idiosyncratic veteran performers in the country.

It'll be interesting to see **Rico J. Puno**, **Hajji Alejandro**, **Rey Valera**, **Nonoy Zuñiga** and **Marco Sison** performing on the same stage together. Unlike many of their contemporaries, they still have flourishing singing careers 20 or even more years after they first got into show business.

Not only are they "star survivors," but they're also individualistic in their performing styles, a trait that should make their concert interestingly varied in terms of repertoire and performing approaches.

Rico is dubbed the "mean and green" performer because of his winking novelty songs and naughty spiels. But he can also sing dramatic songs as powerfully as the best of them.

Rey is more famous as a composer than as a singer, but his interpretations of his own songs are exceptional because he understands them best of all.

Hajji, Nonoy and Marco are all crooners, but they're different in terms of temperament and vocal range. Marco is the most romantic balladeer among the three, while Nonoy has the most textured voice.

Hajji is more of the total performing artist, since he's able to go beyond singing, and venture into thespic interpretations of the songs most associated with him. Call Viva Concerts at 687-5853.

Feedback

FROM **Caroline Camilon** of Lucena City, Quezon: "I am an avid fan of **Kris Aquino**. I look up to her as someone whom I can emulate. However, I am disturbed by her questionable behavior.

"She announced her plan to run for the Senate in 2010, yet she displays in public her relationship with married men. On TV, she is sometimes tactless in her statements, which can be offensive. Moreover, she co-hosts a TV show about gossip, intrigue and scandals.

"Those running for public office must be like Caesar's wife. Likewise, her public statements that she loves her mother, former president Corazon Aquino, should not be mere lip service. If she really loves her mother, she should stop giving her heartaches..."

Second album

ASHANTI isn't scared of the so-called "sophomore jinx." After coming up with a hit debut album, she's following up with "Chapter 2" with no fear in her heart. Her logic: "After you sell five million copies worldwide, it's a good indication that people like you. So, I'm just gonna keep giving them what they love, and even improving on it. I think that 'Chapter 2' is better than my first album, where I didn't even know what I was doing!

"I wrote all the songs for 'Chapter 2.' We had more time to do it, so I hope the greater effort shows. The main theme of my second album is relationships.

"My favorite cuts in it are: 'Feel So Good,' because it's very hip-hop urbanized R&B. 'Break it up' tells a story about past love. And 'Rock With U' and 'Ooh Aah'—because they're sexy!"

Ashanti also shares that she'd like to do some acting, so a movie, titled "Sparkle" is being whipped up for her. But she'll do it only when she feels she's good and ready.

ACOUSTIC RETROSPECT
The cool quartet Retrospect treats its followers to acoustic retro music every Tuesday of July at Aruba! in Libis, Quezon City, as the band covers classics by Sergio Mendez, the Eurhythmics, Stevie Wonder, Stylistics and more, as well as acoustic numbers from the "Luv Bug" album. Mondays, they're at Ratsky Tomas Morato; Thursdays, Le Boulevardier of Hotel Intercontinental; and Saturdays at Drum and Bass Music Bar of Dusit Hotel. Retrospect is backed by seasoned musicians Francis Sioson, Sonny Cuison, Joey M, Rey Reyes and Benjie Ariola, who also does session play for other artists in shows and concerts. Retrospect is finishing its third album from Harmony Music of Alpha Records. For inquiries, call Godspeed Productions at 829-6216, 820-1128 or (0920) 920-9520, or e-mail godspeed@retrospect.ph. Also, visit www.retrospect.ph.

Snooky seeking annulment, denies Lloyd rumors

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

SNOOKY Serna opened up to me about her plans to file for annulment of her marriage to **Ricardo Cepeda**.

Even if my own marriage has been annulled, I'm still saddened when I hear news about couples breaking up. It makes it seem like happily married couples are a dying breed and annulment is an everyday thing in show biz.

Snooky revealed: "Ricardo and I have grown apart. There are still some forces that continually try to come between us so it feels like there's this huge wall between us. I have thought long and hard about my decision and I have made up my mind. It will be better for both of us and our kids to end our marriage."

She wants to clarify rumors linking her to **Lloyd Samartino**. "Lloyd is a childhood friend. He's my shoulder to cry on. We go out so that I won't feel too lonely, but it's nothing beyond friendship. I'm not ready for another relationship."

I've always wondered if it's easier to save a marriage when it's the wife who wants out or when it's the husband who wants to leave. Either way, it's tough. Maybe if Ricardo loves Snooky enough, he can exhaust all means to woo her back.

Full-blown

WHAT started out as a blind item in a previous column of mine has now escalated into a full-blown controversy.

The parties involved—**Jacklyn Jose**, her boyfriend **Kenneth**, formerly of the Mulatto band, and **Kearney Almarillo** who used to be Mulatto's vocalist—spoke on "Startalk" last Saturday. The issue is Kenneth's alleged molestation of Kearney, who's pinpointing him as the father of her youngest kid. Naturally, Jacklyn has come to Kenneth's defense.

I guess a paternity test is the only way to put the issue to rest.

Kearney has filed charges against Kenneth, and she says some other musicians can substantiate her claims.

Jacklyn and Kenneth want to be left alone and just put the scandal behind them.

Both Jacklyn and Kearney are highly volatile at this time. When they bumped into each other at Park Square in Makati last week, a clash was inevitable. **Gina Pareño**, who was with Kearney, witnessed the emotionally charged encounter, and so did many bystanders. It was like a climactic confrontation scene straight out of a *telenovela*.

It's entirely up to the three main characters how they want their story to end. Hopefully, they will pick up some lessons along the way to true peace.

True Faith apologizes

THE MEMBERS of my favorite band, True Faith, would like to apologize to the people of Angeles City who queued up for tickets to their show last July 5. The band had some problems with the concert producer, **Dennis Dungao**, so they didn't go on with the show. Instead, some Angeles-based bands performed. True Faith's road manager **Andy Barce** told me he had been swamped with e-mail about the incident. Too bad that even if you've got genuine talent, you are not spared from getting the raw end of the deal sometimes.

Friends discounts

IN BEHALF of my official headquarters, Friends@dsquare at St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong City, I'm calling on all Friends Privilege Card holders to avail themselves of great discounts every Friday and Saturday until Sept. 16, 2003. Fifty percent off on all local beers and 30 percent off on all premium drinks all night long (personal consumption only), and 20 percent off on food purchases the whole night.

Personal

MY DEEPEST thanks to Dr. **Vicky Belo**, **Vangie**, **Joan** and Dr. **Tina** of the Belo Medical Group for giving my skin a new glow. In your field you are nonpareil.

The crime of Padre Riccardo

From page A26

ence on edge till the end.

This is in no small way helped by the performances of the actors, especially Ulrich Tukur (who plays Gerstein) and Mathieu Kassovitz (Padre Riccardo). The two have a chemistry, almost a bond, seldom found in persons of races so diverse (Tukur is German, Kassovitz a French Jew).

What's even more remarkable, this is a Holocaust film yet you won't see the suffering of the Jews here, no Grand Guignol or horrific detail. All are reaction shots of witnesses or observers to the slaughter. The effect is no less grislier.

When a prisoner is shot point-blank, or when a group is gassed in a chamber, the camera turns away from the thudding corpse or the huddling crowd and instead captures the horror in Gerstein's face.

(Here is one wide difference of this film from the revolting sentimentalism of Spielberg's "Schindler's List" and Roberto Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful.")

A shocking scene is when Padre Riccardo joins the table of some cardinals, the American ambassador and guests having lunch. Trying to convince them to plead with the Pope, he tells how the Jews are being systematically exterminated—and here the camera includes in the frame a woman intently gnawing on the bone of her steak while nonchalantly listening to the tale of slaughter.

Parallel and reversal

The most shocking moment comes when Padre Riccardo, unable to convince the Pope, staggers back and puts the star-of-David symbol on his cassock, in effect identifying himself as a Jew, the lowest of the low, in the presence of the highest officials of Christendom.

This classical reversal—the young priest's abandonment of the Church that has abandoned the Jews to their doom—is as explosive a climax as could be.

The filmmaker is not out to demonize the Vatican, however. In response to this act of apostasy by the young priest, the Pope shows compassion instead of wrath.

The suffering of Pope Pius XII, the political compromises he has to take, is paralleled by the dilemma of a father trying to save his family while necessitating his turning his back on his neighbors. Here the burden of guilt is humanized.

Finally the Holy Father turns in anguish to Padre Riccardo's father, and, in undertone, says: "Who, more than us, knows how it is to be a father?"

A footnote to this story: Gerstein was captured by the French, but his vindication came later when the report he wrote in prison was used as evidence against the Nazis in the Nuremberg trials.

The film's title itself suggests a calm acceptance of fate, the course of life, and the judgement of history.

At film's end, however, there's no Private Ryan asking the claptrap "Have I lived a good life?"

In fact, there's no dénouement. Instead, there's a suicide. And Gerstein's diabolical superior arrives in the Vatican to ask the hierarchy to facilitate his flight to warmer climes. While the film's poster shows a cross melding with a swastika.

This is, indeed, profoundly disturbing.

And, should we add: Costa-Gavras' father was an atheist, while the filmmaker was raised as strictly Orthodox.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

THE HUNTED R13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40, 10:00
TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE GP 12:40, 2:20, 4:00, 5:40, 7:20, 9:00	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

The crime of Padre Riccardo

By Constantino C. Tejero

REVIEW

CONSTANTIN Costa-Gavras, the Greek-born, naturalized-French filmmaker, has come up with another masterpiece of a political thriller in "Amen," screened to a packed audience in the 8th French Film Festival at SM Megamall last month.

The 70-year-old Costa-Gavras is probably the finest political filmmaker working today, and certainly the most renowned. (Wajda seems inactive—and what happened to Pontecorvo?)

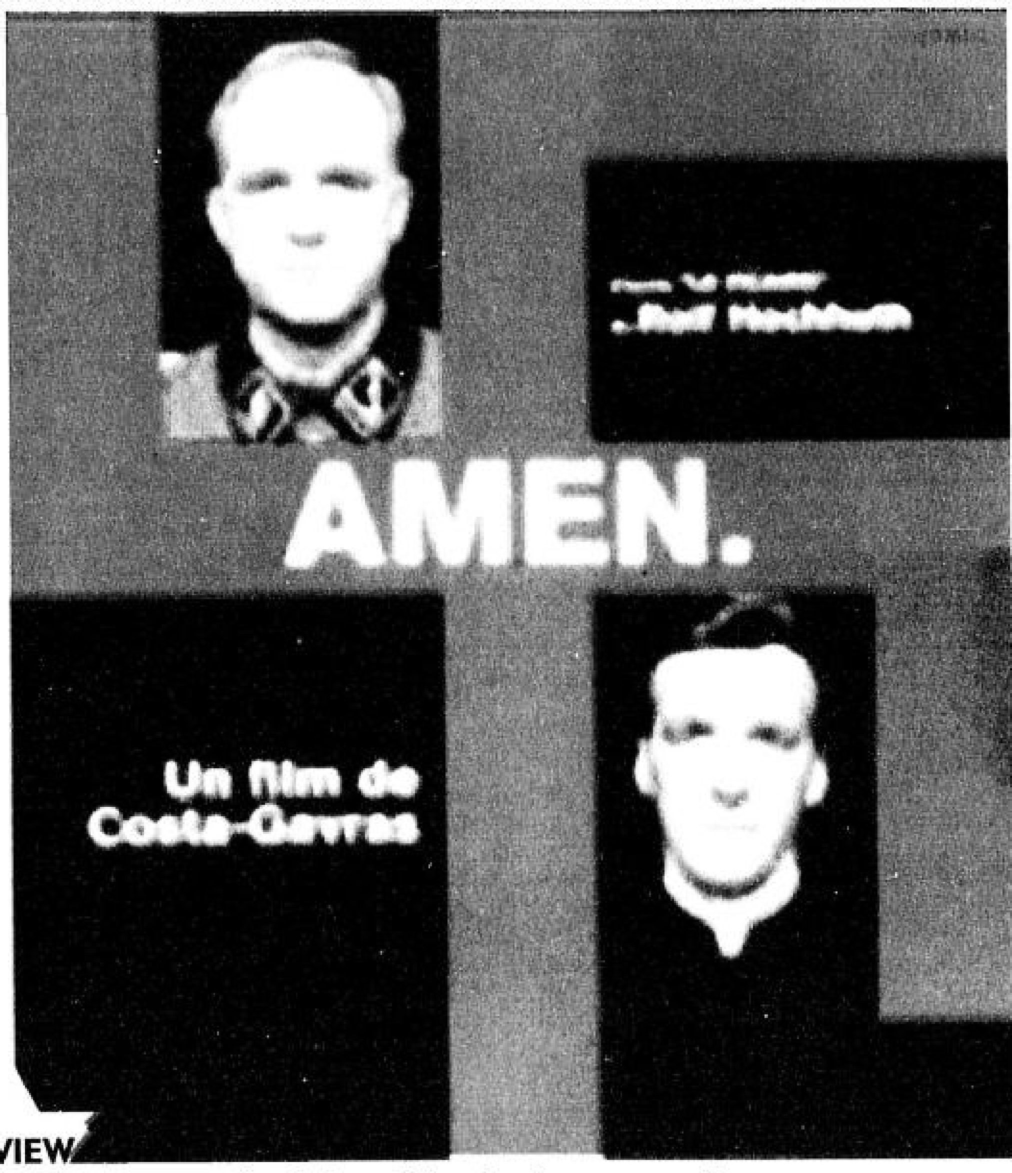
The bitterness of the filmmaker's indictment of all oppressive systems is rooted in his youth. His family had been ostracized in his homeland, his father being a World War II resistance fighter repeatedly jailed after the war for being a communist.

Denied entry into a Greek university and refused a visa to study in the US, the young man moved to Paris and studied literature in the Sorbonne. Filmmaking was his first love, however, so he apprenticed with front-rank French filmmakers René Clair and Jacques Demy.

When his turn to make films came, they were as far away as could be from the lightheaded fare of his mentors. In them, he vented his ire against tyranny and oppression in any form anywhere in the world, from the Greek junta to the Palestinian issue to post-Allende Chile, from communist witch hunt in Czechoslovakia to CIA activities in Uruguay.

Thus the often controversial political films: "Z," "The Confession," "State of Siege," "Special Section," "Family Business," "Missing," "Hanna K.," "Betrayed," "The Music Box," "Mad City."

The harsh denunciations are intensified by gripping suspense, yet tempered by a realistic camera work and a journalistic style of storytelling. That has become his signature, and it is just as apparent in this latest masterpiece.



Based on Rolf Hochhuth's play "The Representative," the film tells the true story of Waffen SS chemist Kurt Gerstein, who supplied the Nazis with the toxic gas Zyclon B, which they used in exterminating the Jews in concentration camps.

Upon knowing how the chemical is being used, the German officer, who is a devout Protestant, tries to plead with the Roman Catholic Church to stop the slaughter. He enlists a young Jesuit, the Italian priest Riccardo Fontana.

Suspense and horror

Will the two succeed in pleading with the Pope? Will they save millions of Jews in the process?

History tells us what happened, and the virtue of the film is in keeping up the suspense despite that. (We know what happened to Oedipus, but we stay put in our seats in the theater because Sophocles has grabbed us with his tight plotting.)

Here, as with his other films, Costa-Gavras has transcended the polemics by using the genre of the thriller. No matter how high-minded the subject, the plot keeps the audi-

THE CRIME/ A25

Papin's sex assault complaint dismissed

By Alan Pelayo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PAPIN

NAGA CITY—The Regional State Prosecutor's Office (RSPO) dismissed the sexual harassment complaint that singer and Camarines Sur Vice Gov. Imelda Papin had filed against a colleague in the provincial board who she had accused of sexually assaulting her.

RSPO chief Santiago Turingan dismissed Papin's complaint of acts of lasciviousness against provincial board member Crisanto Rances due to a technicality.

Turingan said Papin's lawyer had filed a petition asking the Office of the Regional State Prosecutor for a modification of the resolution of the earlier decision of the Provincial State Prosecutor of Camarines Sur dismissing the case, so that the proper charge of acts of lasciviousness could be filed.

Turingan said Papin's petition was not verified under the rules.

On May 14, the Camarines Sur provincial state prosecutor dismissed Papin's complaint of three counts of act of lasciviousness against Rances.

According to the complaint, in the afternoon of May 25, 2002, while the provincial board was in executive session, Rances kissed Papin on the lips and mashed her breasts in front of their colleagues.

Rances then followed her to her office at the provincial capitol where he again assaulted her, according to Papin's complaint.

The Provincial Prosecutor's Office dismissed the case and ruled that the complaint should be brought before the Barangay Lupon ng Tagapamayapa for possible amicable settlement.

But Papin went directly to the RSPO instead.

Turingan said the appeal may be made by filing a verified petition for review with the Office of the Secretary of Justice or with the Regional State Prosecutor.

PAPIN'S/ A24

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RP, Australia near deal on farm dispute

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo reported yesterday that the Philippines and Australia have moved a step closer toward patching up their long-standing dispute on the restricted entry of Philippine mangoes, bananas and pineapples to Australia.

But Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo remained skeptical on whether the Australian government would live up to its end of the bargain to ease up on its phyto-sanitary standards that had prevented Philippine fruits from being sold on Australian supermarket shelves.

In a briefing following the two countries' bilateral discussions, Ms Macapagal said the Philippines and Australian have "moved forward in reaching a mutually acceptable precautionary measure" that would finally allow Philippine fruits to pass through Australia's customs.

"I am grateful to Prime Minister John Howard for his very positive response to our proposal to further open up the Australian market for our products, especially the agricultural products coming from Mindanao," the President said.

Howard said his government was looking at ways of improving access of Philippine agriculture products to Australia which he hoped would be resolved in an "intelligent and cooperative" manner.

Howard said: "Our quarantine measures are based on science but others view them differently. But if we can establish a mechanism to bring all these issues together, there will be a better outcome for everybody." Ms Macapagal concurred that Australia's phyto-sanitary measures were not "trade barriers" but "scientific precautions."

In an interview, Lorenzo said that Australia has agreed to fumigate Philippine pineapples in Australia but only with nephyl bromide, which Philippine farmers claimed was toxic and debilitates their harvest. Lorenzo said the Philippines would push for the use of an alternative fumigant, hydrocyanic acid, which was acceptable to other importing countries like New Zealand and Japan.

Lorenzo said that the Philippines also pressed the Australian government for the release of the risk analysis report on Philippines bananas that it was supposed to release a year ago. He said the two agreed to resolve the issue bilaterally rather than proceed to the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement board.

RP/ B4

INDICATORS

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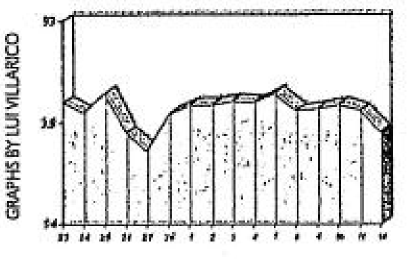


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱53.545 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 14, 2003

¥117.56 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 14, 2003

GOLD: $344.30-344.80

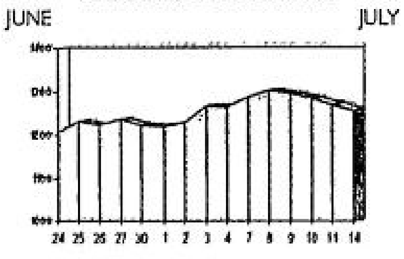
per ounce Hong Kong, July 14, 2003

July 14, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.885112	1.000000	53.435000
Japan	Yen	0.007524	0.008501	0.454300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442733	1.630000	87.099100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.113491	0.128222	6.851500
Switzerland	Franc	0.643671	0.727220	38.859000
Canada	Dollar	0.643157	0.726639	38.828000
Singapore	Dollar	0.504913	0.570451	30.482000
Australia	Dollar	0.582502	0.658111	35.166200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.347840	2.652590	141.741100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236030	0.266667	14.249400
Brunei	Dollar	0.503477	0.568828	30.395300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021276	0.024038	1.284500
UAE	Dirham	0.240991	0.272272	14.548900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.129800	60.370900
Argentina	Peso	0.321859	0.363636	19.430900
Brazil	REAL	0.304896	0.344471	18.406800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134457	0.151909	8.117300
India	Rupee	0.019241	0.021739	1.161600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.232955	0.263193	14.063700
Mexico	New Peso	0.085181	0.096237	5.142400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523890	0.591891	31.627700
Norway	Kroner	0.120315	0.135932	7.263500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015353	0.017346	0.926900
South Africa	Rand	0.116539	0.131666	7.035600
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.000850	0.045400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109219	0.123396	6.593700
Syria	Pound	0.021075	0.023810	1.272300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025843	0.029197	1.560100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000555	0.000627	0.033500

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed weaker for the fourth straight session yesterday with technical selling in PLDT and jitters over ownership in San Miguel Corp. weighing on market sentiment.

Traders said the market still had room for a further correction following strong gains in the first two weeks of June and in early July, and with ownership questions in heavyweight San Miguel likely to remain a key market overhang.

The Philippine stock index lost 14.44 points or 1.14 percent to end at 1,256.33 points. Despite the market's losses in four days, the index was still up 23.36 percent so far this year.

Market turnover climbed to P638.98 million against P77.98 million on Friday. Losers were in a near three-to-one majority.

PLDT, the country's biggest phone company, slipped P15 or 2.7 percent to end at P540 despite estimates that the company's net income may exceed more than P6 billion in the first half this year against the year-ago profit of P2.8 billion.

"It's just a correction because the stock price has already gone up. A higher net income may have been factored in already in the share price," said April Lee-Tan, research head at Citisecurities Inc.

Shares of PLDT was suspended in the first 30 minutes of trade pending the firm's clarification on the earnings estimate. But the company said in a disclosure it would announce its first half 2003 financial results on July 16, adding it was "unable to comment" on the reports as it was still reviewing and completing its operating results for the first six months.

San Miguel "A" shares restricted to local investors lost 3.7 percent or P2 to end at P52 and the "B" shares open to all investors fell 3.23 percent or P2 to close at P60.

On Friday, an anti-graft court ruled in favor of the state in a case involving government-sequestered shares in unlisted United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). The stake was contested by coconut farmers and influential businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, also chair and chief executive officer of San Miguel.

The ruling has a direct implication on a contested block of shares in San Miguel, with major stakes in both the bank and San Miguel allegedly amassed using funds illegally collected from coconut farmers during the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' reign. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

July 14, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 14-Jul-03	MART1 11-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2847	6.2683
3 Months	6.3679	6.3732
6 Months	7.2733	7.26
1 Year	7.9111	7.9129
2 Years	8.875	8.8867
3 Years	9.6317	9.675
4 Years	10.0967	10.095
5 Years	10.2983	10.3067
7 Years	11.1717	11.2
10 Years	11.472	11.472
20 Years	11.9763	11.99
25 Years	12.385	12.3833

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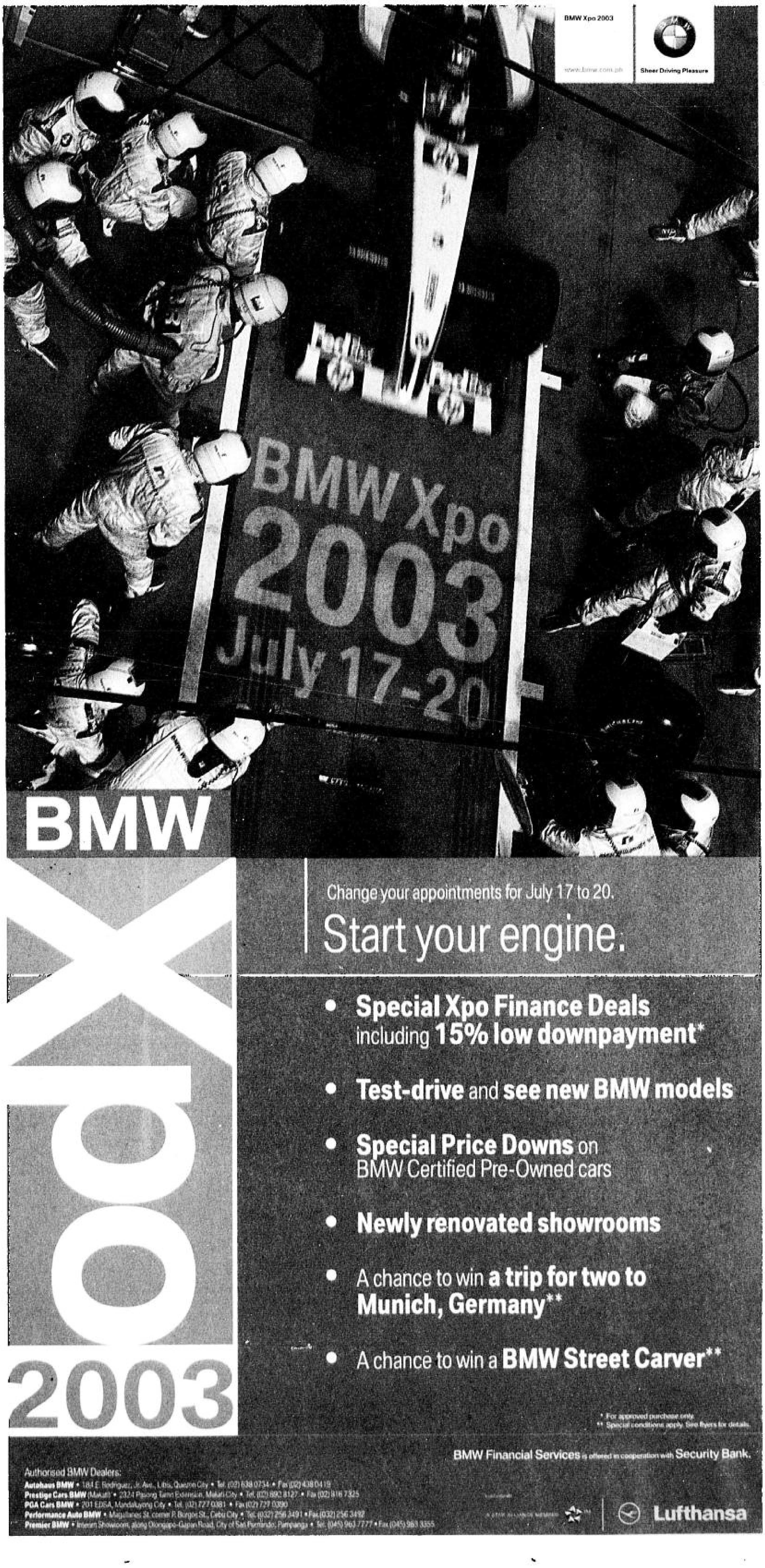

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Gov't considering subsidy for vehicle exports

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MON.-FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is poised to give in to the request of Ford Motor Co. Phils. for export subsidies in the form of tariff cuts that, according to the Department of Finance, would cost the government some P2.18 billion in foregone revenues in five years.

Ford said it wanted to infuse into the country another $1.2 billion, on top of the P4 billion it had already invested, and the export subsidy would be crucial in making its decision.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's meeting with Ford's top officials in Detroit during her state visit to the United States in May, the company disclosed the details of its plan to step up its export program in the Philippines.

"We support the idea in principle but we need to be assured that any incentive would be revenue neutral," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in an interview.

Camacho said government officials were still discussing what possible strategy could be adopted in ensuring that the subsidy would encourage exports but would not bleed the government coffers dry.

The finance chief said any incentive that would be given Ford should also be extended to other car assemblers planning to make the Philippines their export hub.

The export incentive scheme would involve tariff reduction on imported completely built units or CBUs.

Ford sought a reduction in the tariff on five models to a range of 1 to 5 percent from the existing level of 5 to 30 percent.

Ford had sought an export subsidy per vehicle of $200 to $600 for five years to make the Philippines a viable export production platform and offset the country's small market, weak supply base and high infrastructure costs.

Ford claimed that the government would stand to gain taxes of about $600 per vehicle but based on the DOF calculations, the benefit would only be about $397 per unit exported.

Over a five-year period, the tax benefits to the government would be about P1.98 billion or slightly lower against the projected foregone revenues.

The company claimed that it would provide an additional employment to more than 6,000 people once local production was increased to 150,000 units over a five-year period.

Income from indirect taxes would come from those imposed on suppliers.

A finance official stressed, however, that Ford could not lay claim on indirect taxes as its suppliers were not existing only to do business with it.

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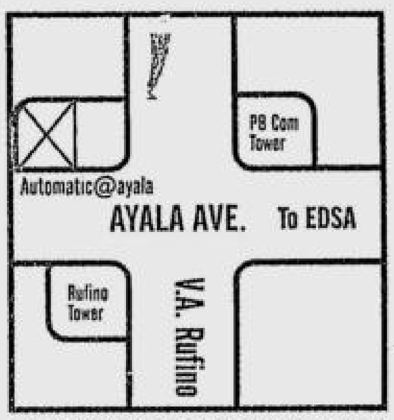

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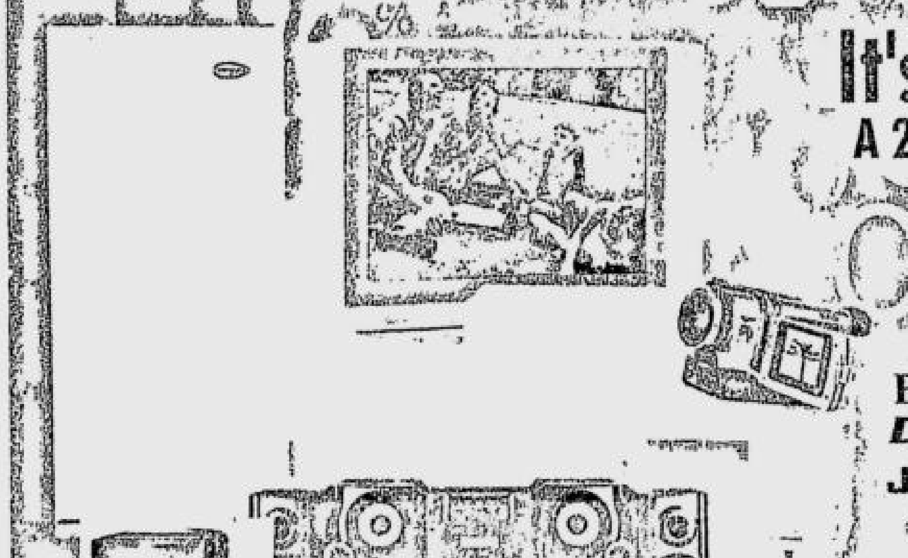

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PPA seeks funds for modernization

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority is eyeing three more options—in addition to privatization and bond flotation—to fund the long-delayed P5-billion modernization of Manila's North Harbor, the country's premier domestic port.

These options include the use of internally generated funds, foreign borrowings and grants, and local borrowings, PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said in an interview with reporters Friday.

Two years ago, the PPA had said it would put the modernization project on the auction block for a possible build-operate-transfer arrangement with a private entity.

After almost two years of working on the terms of reference (TOR) of the bidding, however, the PPA and the Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation (CCPSP) had yet to come up with a final document that could signal the start of a public bidding.

Cusi said there was already a draft TOR, which would be discussed in the coming days for additional inputs from stakeholders.

In an earlier interview, he disclosed that should there be no taker for the project, the PPA would float bonds to fund it.

The North Harbor modernization project involves the merging of piers, construction of a new quay and a passenger terminal building, and the reinforcement and repair works. It will be undertaken in three phases starting at the Marine Slipway going south toward Pier 2.

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	150,000	130,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
10.	EASTRIDGE B		160,000
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
12.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
14.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	500,000/600,000	450,000/550,000
15.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	165,000
16.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	
17.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	Please call
18.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
19.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	775,000	
20.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
21.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	120,000
22.	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	300,000	260,000
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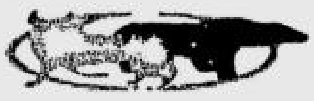


Ron Nathan

I DO not understand why President Bush has gone to Africa to give them AIDS. They have too much already. A reader sent me the following story:

A rich American was in love with 3 women and could not decide which one to marry so he gave each of them $10,000 to spend as they wished. The first went to an exclusive beauty salon and had a face-lift, liposuction, a new hair-do, contact lenses, the works. When he saw her, she was stunning, and like Listerine, she took his breath away. He was very impressed.

The second did exactly the opposite. She bought him an Armani suit, Bally shoes, a YSL shirt and tie, Ray Ban sunglasses, and a gold Rolex watch. A Gucci briefcase completed the ensemble, and he was very impressed.

The third was financially knowledgeable and she put the money into stock options and index futures. After one month, she returned his $10,000 and showed him a joint account with $50,000. "With me," she said, "You will never go hungry." He was very impressed.

But he remained confused, not knowing which one to marry. So he married the one with the biggest boobs.

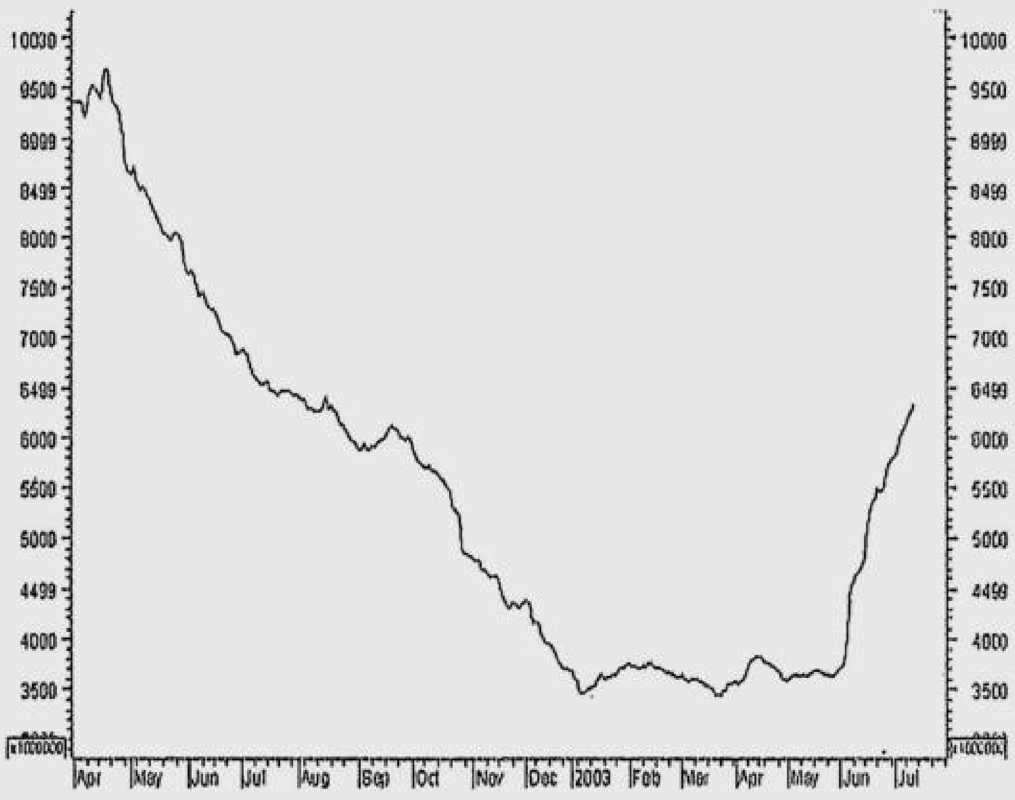
* * *

TODAY, I will return to looking at the big picture. Over the past 3 months, the Nasdaq has risen 30 percent and the DOW 23 percent and, as usual, all other markets have taken their cue from Wall Street. In Japan, the Nikkei has recovered from 8,000 to 10,000; in Thailand, the index has risen by 27 percent in a month. Everywhere, throughout South East Asia, there has been a strong recovery on the back of the US best measured by the S&P 500 index, up 25 percent.

In the Philippines, the story has been the same and the Phisix has risen from a low of 980 to 1,300. Fund Managers, not only in America but also in other parts of the world, have assumed that the US economy will improve in the second half, and that GDP, which was only 1.4 percent in the first quarter, will rise to 3.5 percent in the second half. If this assumption is true, then Asian markets stand to benefit, as they are exporters, mainly to the US. So money has been flowing into the Mutual Funds that specialize in our part of the world. The amount depends on the liquidity of the various markets and ours is by far, the smallest. However, this works both ways and it takes only a small amount to push up our stocks. To put the matter into perspective, our market, before the recent rally, had a turnover of about $3 million. By contrast, the US market trades $90 billion a day.

CUMULATIVE FOREIGN ACTIVITY

IF YOU look at the chart in the center, you will see that from April 2002 until the yearend, foreign investment houses were selling Filipino stocks virtually every day. As a result, the Phisix fell from a 1997 high of 3,240 to 980, a decline of about 70 percent. In addition, the peso depreciated by 100 percent, from 26 to 53.40. So our stocks, in dollar terms, were absurdly cheap.



I feel certain that the meeting between President Arroyo and President Bush was feted to turn out successfully, and from that time on, overseas funds that had previously excluded the Philippines, decided to invest a tiny proportion in our market. If you will look at the chart of cumulative foreign activity, kindly supplied by Tsupitero.com, you will see a sudden turnaround, which is continuing up to this very day.

On one occasion, foreign inflow reached P400 million and pushed on trading turnover to P1 billion. The next day, there was a further inflow of P200 million and the effect on our market was dramatic. The shares that were bought up in large quantities were TEL, ALI and GLO (mainly through cross sales). If you can cast your mind back to last year, I recommended as my stocks for 2003: TEL at P226, and GLO at P410. TEL has recently been up to P600, an increase of 165 percent, and GLO P710, an increase of 75 percent. So, if you had divided your money equally between them, you could have been up by almost 120 percent, about 5 times better than the Phisix.

At the moment, the foreign funds are still coming in, but the average has slowed to around P50 million a day. This is just a drop in the bucket to them; but to us, it is a major turning point because it implies some degree of confidence. As the index has risen from 980 to 1300, it would be reasonable to expect a sharp correction. Followers of Fibonacci would expect a retracement of 100 points and followers of Gann might expect 150 points but this is unlikely to happen. So long as foreign money continues to be invested daily, any correction is likely to be shallow, say 50 to 75 points. But if foreign money dries up, or worse still, reverses into profit taking, then the Phisix could take a tumble.

TEL is expected to report on Wednesday and analysts are looking for P5.8 billion. If profits should fall short of this, the stock could correct sharply, and since it is a heavyweight in the index, it would drag down the whole market. However, this is not expected to happen and both TEL and GLO should do well, though in the short-term, their results have probably been discounted.

My degree of risk indicator sent out a SELL signal of the market last Wednesday, right at the top, and it has been falling ever since. This is fascinating and I intend to develop it further. I have added additional volatile stocks.

The dividend season on Wall Street has just started and we have disappointing results from Yahoo, ALCOA and General Electric. Also, we have the unemployment rate at a 9-year high of 6.4 percent. As yet, there is little evidence to support a projection of 3.5 percent GDP for the second half, but by next week, some 40 percent of the DOW components will have reported so I will look at them in more detail. Where Wall Street goes, everyone follows, so we must always keep an eye on it. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, July 14, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	29,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.25	19	19	21,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	81,500
China Banking Corp.	755	760	755	760	1,250
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	33	33	2,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	85,500
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	20,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	14	13.25	14	13,100
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	17	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	180,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1440	1440	1440	1440	1,100
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1045	1045	1040	1045	1,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	9,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	690	680	690	49,320
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	11,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.52	0.53	11,580,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	560	560	535	540	338,130
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.44	740,000
Vivant Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	42,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12	12.25	12	12	667,000
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.25	18	18	1,769,900
Petron Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.08	4,046,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	276,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	210,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	1,410,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	41,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	877,400
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	51.5	52	194,200
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	59.5	60	2,876,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	10,585,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	445,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.038	0.034	0.035	15,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	5,800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	68,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.88	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.6	0.61	10,220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	193,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.75	15	229,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.28	1.32	3,352,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	191,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	3,600,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.39	8,230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	2,100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	80,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.58	1.5	1.58	35,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	2,860,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	22	21.5	22	245,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	8,028,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.175	0.18	8,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	6,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	6,343,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	200,000
Kuok Phil Properties	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.14	610,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	270,000
SM Development Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	221,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6	6	6	6	887,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	112,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0036	0.0038	259,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	650,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	49,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	73,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000

DISCLOSURES

NEGROS Navigation Co. Inc. disclosed the election of Larry Ramos as a non-voting member of the nomination committee of the company.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine announced the appointment of Charles Yap Giok Twee as director of the company.

* * *

ALLIED Bank posted an unaudited net income of P515 million for the first five months of the year.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. bought 1.89 million of its own shares at P1.42 per share.

* * *

PRYCE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30, 4 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club. Only stockholders of record as of July 10 are entitled to participate in the meeting.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. denied having information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price that fell from P200 to P120 per share but closed at P199 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

Pilipinas Shell bags ₱416-M supply deal from Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. bagged a contract worth about P416 million for the supply of bunker fuel for power plants of National Power Corp., the state firm said yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell's contract covers 44,239 kiloliters of fuel needs for the 98-megawatt Iligan diesel power plant in Mindanao.

At the same time, Napocor said it would offer for bidding three more contracts worth about P35 million on July 31.

Napocor said the three contracts would cover additional fuel requirements of the diesel power plants on Bantayan Island and Doong as well as Power Barge 116—all located in Cebu.

Of the three plants, Bantayan has the biggest supply need at 1,553 kiloliters with an approved budget of P25.5 million.

PB-116 needs 604 kiloliters with a budget cap of P9.9 million while Doong needs 39 kiloliters at P639,550.

The three Napocor-owned plants form part of the firm's Small Island Grid in the Visayas. Bantayan has a capacity of 10 MW, Doong has 0.33 MW and PB-116 has 3.36 MW.

Early this month, Napocor auctioned off P3.6 billion worth of additional fuel supply contracts, one of which was the contract awarded to Pilipinas Shell.

The five plants covered by the contracts are Magellan Cogeneration Inc.'s 63-megawatt plant in Cavite; the 98-MW diesel power plant in Iligan City; Paragua Power Co.'s 16-MW plant in Palawan and Island Power Corp.'s 7-MW plant in Mindoro Occidental.

There was no bidder for the supply needs of the 64-MW Bataan combined cycle power plant.

The five contracts account for a total of about 229 million liters.

Open sky for cargo service in Clark pushed

By Abigail L. Ho

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said he would personally convince Clark Development Corp. to adopt an open sky policy for cargo service providers to help spur businesses in the former military base.

"We'll talk to Clark to trigger this. Why don't we just open the cargo (side)?" he said during a recent meeting with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark currently plays host to international courier services provider UPS.

UPS uses the DMIA as its intra-Asia hub, which operates daily flights that link key Asian commercial centers including Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Osaka, Singapore, Shanghai and Seoul.

While DMIA already served as a cargo hub for UPS, Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan said it could generate more businesses if it would adopt an open sky policy.

"The Philippines is the gateway of North America to Southeast Asia. We have more American tourists than Thailand, which is the gateway of Europe to Asia. The only thing we need (to take advantage of this) is the right policy," he said in a presentation during the meeting.

He said adopting an open sky policy even with other cargo carriers including Nippon Cargo Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Cargolux Airlines International and TNT Air Cargo could bring more business to Clark.

In response to this, Mendoza said other cargo carriers were actually free to apply for open sky agreements at the DMIA. They only had to "deliver their intentions."

"The only big issue (on open sky) for the local airlines is on the passenger side and not cargo. We're declaring open sky in Clark for cargo. The carriers can just apply," he said.

To make this known to other cargo carriers, Neri said he would talk to the CDC to take the first step in inviting other carriers to use the DMIA as a cargo destination point.

"If we want their (cargo carriers) business, Clark has to do something about it. Clark should initiate something," he said.

Meantime, the Philippine air panel is maintaining its stance to adopt an all-cargo open sky agreement with the United States before opening up the passenger market.

Air talks between the two countries will take place in Manila from July 16 to 18.

PSE suspends trading of Atlas Mining shares

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday suspended the shares trading of Atlas Consolidated and Mining Development Corp. as the check issued by the latter to cover certain fines bounced.

Meantime, the PSE lifted the suspension earlier slapped on First e-Bank Corp., which complied with the reporting requirements of the local bourse and paid the fine for late submission.

In the case of Atlas, the PSE said it was informed by its finance and investment department that the check covering payment for the fines was returned by the bank.

The payment was supposed to cover fines imposed for the delayed submission of financial reports for the first quarter of this year.

Atlas was supposed to be suspended as early as Wednesday last week but managed to avoid this with the issuance of the check.

First e-Bank, on the other hand, finally submitted 200 copies of its quarterly report for the same quarter and paid the corresponding fines.

First e-Bank, a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., earlier divested banking assets in favor of tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The PSE imposes a basic fine of P50,000 plus P5,000 for every day after the lapse of a grace period for the submission of these requirements. *Doris Dumlao*

RP, Australia near deal . . .

From page B1

Lorenzo said that Australia agreed to accept mangoes grown outside Guimaras Island and to open up more fruit imports after they have gone through an irradiation process if the US has made this process acceptable to their standards.

Aside from lowering its quarantine standards, Lorenzo said Australia has also committed to help fruit growing farmers in Mindanao through financial and technical aid.

Meantime, the Philippines has agreed to import $33 million worth of coal annually from Australia in exchange for increased investments in local coal mining and offshore oil and gas exploration projects by businessmen from Down Under.

Ms Macapagal yesterday announced that the state-run National Power Corp. has agreed to buy 975,000 metric tons of coal annually for the next two years from Australia on a competitive bidding basis.

She said the agreement, which was meant to diversify the country's energy sources, should "revive a trade that has been dying down over the years between Australia and the Philippines."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez explained that the Australian coal deal was meant to ensure a steady supply to coal-fired plants in the country such as those in Masinloc, Sual, Pagbilao, Mauban and Toledo.

Perez said the country did not have enough coal to meet the requirements of power plants and even the small amount produced from local coal mines did not meet the quality required by the users.

During bilateral discussions yesterday morning, Perez said the Philippine panel urged the Australians to encourage their coal miners and wildcatters to put their money into the development of mining and oil and gas exploration industries in the country.

"Its not a condition to the coal purchase agreement, but we have made it very clear to them (Australian government) that we would like it to be there as part of a reciprocity agreement," Perez said.

Perez, a former investment banker, said the Australian officials responded favorably to the Philippines' request to profit from the long experience of Australia in coal mining and oil and gas exploration.

In Congress, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla yesterday asked the visiting Australian prime minister to review his government's trade policies with the Philippines, which has become a dumping ground for Australian products.

Padilla said this has resulted in gross imbalance in favor of Australia to the detriment of Philippine products.

"Correcting the one-sided agricultural trade will boost Philippine agriculture and the competitiveness of Philippine products," he said.

ECONOMY MUDDLING ALONG

US rebound lackluster as Greenspan testifies

WASHINGTON—The scenario that Alan Greenspan hoped for has not yet panned out: Three months after the fall of Baghdad the US economy is muddling along but has not snapped back sharply from its war-related doldrums.

When the Federal Reserve chair travels to Capitol Hill for closely watched testimony this week, it would be impossible for him to gloss over some dismal news lately. The factory sector is listless, the number of Americans receiving unemployment checks is at a 20-year high and the jobless rate has surged to a 9-year peak of 6.4 percent.

The stock market is still enthusiastic about the prospect of a strong rebound and many analysts expect Greenspan to highlight some reasons for optimism in his twice-yearly monetary testimony, which begins on Tuesday. But the Fed chief's trademark caution could set the tone for what he says.

"The concern is not so much that we are going into a recession but that we could stay in this slow-growth, no-jobs scenario for a while," said Kurt Karl, chief economist at Swiss Re. *Reuters*

China draws $7B in June

BEIJING—China drew nearly $7 billion in foreign investment in June, the strongest monthly showing in a year, in the latest evidence that the economy quickly got back on track after a modest hit from SARS.

The total marked a rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) of just 2.5 percent from a year earlier, the Ministry of Commerce said on Monday, a far cry from growth rates that have pushed 40 percent in recent months.

But analysts said the slowdown was due to a big spike a year earlier and not the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed more than 340 people in China and infected thousands.

"It's a statistics base thing," said Dong Tao, an economist with Credit Suisse First Boston in Hong Kong, referring to strong investment in June 2002. *Reuters*

Japan closures down

TOKYO—Japanese corporate bankruptcies fell in June for the sixth straight month, a research firm said on Monday, as restructuring helped cushion the effects of a weak economy.

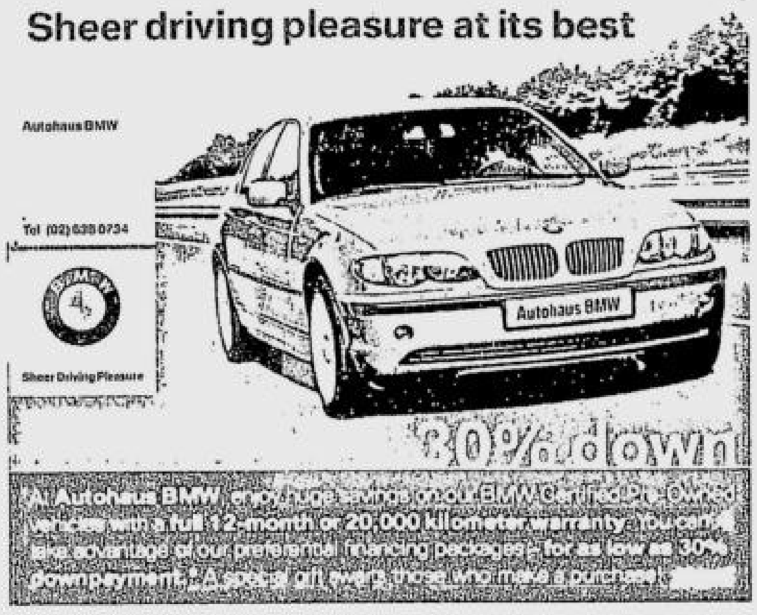
Independent research firm Teikoku Databank said bankruptcies dropped 1.2 percent from a year earlier to 1,398 cases, although the debts of firms that went bust in June rose 16 percent to a total of 815.66 billion yen ($6.93 billion).

Teikoku attributed the falling number of cases to efforts by companies to reduce the risk of going under—by scaling back businesses, cutting spending and using cash instead of promissory notes to avoid trouble with banks in the case of late payments.

The downward trend in bankruptcies was reflected in data for the six months to June, which showed that 8,984 companies went belly up.

An expansion of public finance for troubled small and medium-sized enterprises has also helped reduce business failures, it said. *Reuters*

Sheer driving pleasure at its best



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Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
323i	2001	Titanium Silver	26k	1,900,000.00	1,840,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,760,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	6k	1,870,000.00	1,810,000.00
318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,950,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	17k	2,825,000.00	2,750,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	2,950,000.00

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
316i	1996	Boston Green	60k	685,000.00	650,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	800,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00
523i	1997	Dunkel Blue	57k	1,600,000.00	1,525,000.00
318tds	1996	Titanium Silver	50k	900,000.00	875,000.00

*On selected cars.
**90 days or 5,000 kilometer (whichever comes first) limited warranty on BMW Pre-Owned Cars

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AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
3rd Flr. Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of June 19, 2003

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P	2,701,237 73
Due from Central Bank		125,325,167 97
Due from Other Banks		446,016,450 00
Interbank Loans Receivable		250,000,000 00
Trading Account Securities		100,000,000 00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		2,648,883,522 55
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		3,094,445,552 23
Equity Investments (Net)		2,579,050 00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		1,377,040,413 61
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)		10,152,412 81
Other Assets (Net) Others		100,794,456 92
TOTAL ASSETS	P	8,157,939,063.82
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	228,712,523 06
Savings Deposits		1,404,054,463 76
Time Deposits		2,447,827,208 74
Special/Other Deposits		11,175,262 49
Due to Central Bank		4,108,562 29
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		3,273,068,577 98
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,814,510 11
Bills Payable		
Interbank Borrowings		99,412,185 50
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		871,898 10
Other Liabilities		157,370,743 29
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	7,629,224,935.92
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	P	444,323,634.54
Other Capital Accounts	P	84,390,493 36
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	528,714,127 90
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	8,157,939,063.82
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	1,263,966,482 77
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		1,970,375,625 41
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		1,909,034,800 92
Other Contingent Accounts		652,781,250 29
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	5,796,158,176.39

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As At 30 September 2002
In AUD Millions

Capital	5,314
Surplus	6,151
Profits	2,322
Total Deposits	113,297
Total Resources	183,105

LIST OF SENIOR OFFICERS:

Mr. Johnny Co	General Manager and Country Head
Mr. Kim Chan	Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Nonilo Cruz	Senior Vice President - Business Banking
Ms. Regina Fajardo	Vice President - Treasury
Mrs. Bee Lian So	Vice President - International Services
Ms. Leah Espino	Assistant Vice President - Personal Banking
Mr. Arlino Magsakay	Assistant Vice President - Operations

Other Information

1	Deposits of	
	a Government	nil
	b Banks	301,199 00
	c Trust Department	nil
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
	Prescribed Ratio: 6% Small Ent. / 2% Medium Ent.	
	Actual Compliance: 104% / 100%	
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans	140,123,381 00
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio	4 00%
5.	Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	140,190,322 00
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses	129,120,724 65
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses	74,670,425 75
8.	Return on Equity (ROE) – Based on Assigned Capital	25 51%
	Return on Equity (ROE) – Based on Shareholder's Equity	20 33%
	Return on Equity (ROE) – Inclusive of Net Due to HO	5 10%
9.	Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	5,002,020 16
10.	Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances	0 16%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	nil
12.	Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio	nil
13.	"Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank	1,890,028,104.37

* Amended to conform with Circular No 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
MAKATI CITY } S.S.

WE, JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Sgd.) JOHNNY CO
General Manager and Country Head

(Sgd.) KIM CHAN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ________, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No 11017405, issued at Makati City, on Feb 21, 2002 and Passport No E7048749, issued at Jakarta Indonesia, on June 2, 1998

Notary Public ______________, Until Dec 31, PTR No. ____________; Date Issued ______ ______
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PHILIPPINE BUSINESS OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 2003
What Lies Ahead?
Thursday, 24 July 2003, Rigodon Ballroom, Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City

CONFERENCE AGENDA

- DEBT AND DEFICIT: THE GOVERNMENT'S TWIN HEADACHES
  Sec. Emilia Boncodin
  Department of Budget and Management
- REBUILDING STRENGTHAND STABILITY OF FINANCIALMARKETS
  Gov. Rafael Buenaventura
  Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- THE STATE OF OUR NATIONAL POWER GRID
  Alan Ortiz
  President, National Transmission Company
- CORPORATE GOVERNANCE SCORECARD
  Lilia Bautista
  Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission
- BONDS HAVE MORE FUN
  Warner Manning
  President and CEO, HSBC
- WHERE IN THE WORLD IS JUAN DE LA CRUZ?
  Sec. Patricia Sto. Tomas
  Department of Labor and Employment
- SURVEY SAYS?
  Mahar Mangahas
  President, Social Weather Stations

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People, Events & Products

'Say Bee!' with Jollibee's Photo Contest

EVERYDAY, many happy and memorable moments take place in Jollibee. From the enjoyable Jolly Kiddie Party thrown for junior to a first date of a young couple to a Sunday family outing, Jollibee is the place where Filipinos go to celebrate everyday occasions and important milestones. What could be a better way to preserve these memories than by capturing it on camera?

Jollibee's 25th Anniversary merriment continues with a new treat from Jollibee. Now, professional and aspiring photographers alike can take part in a new and exciting contest called the Jollibee "Say BEE!" Photo Contest.

With camera in tow, all Filipinos, ages 18 years and above, may join the contest. Just catch those Jollibee memories that showcase the theme "Basta may Jollibee, buhay lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya!"

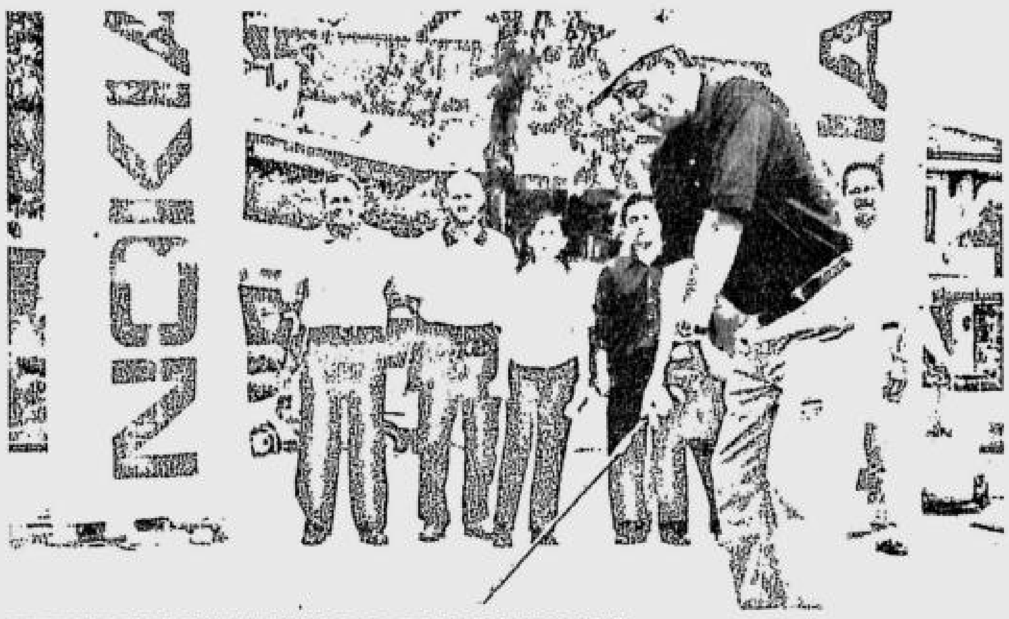
The contest is open to both professional and non-professional photographers. Professional photographers such as photojournalists, commercial or advertising photographers may join in two categories: Professional - Published category and the Professional -Unpublished category. For the published category, the Jollibee photos must have been published in any Philippine publication between July 15, 2002 to August 15, 2003.

Amateurs, young and old alike, may also join the contest in the Non-Professional Category. This is open to Filipinos 18 years old and above who are not practicing photography in a professional or commercial capacity and should not be a member of any professional photographers group.

Three top prize winners will be selected for each of the categories. Professionals may win as much as P25,000 in cash, a trophy, and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package. For the non-professional category, the first prize winner will receive a cash prize of P15,000, a trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package.

Entries must be submitted in 8" x 11" size, black & white or colored, with or without borders. Each entry must be accompanied by a brief title. Color photographs must be mounted on the black side of an illustration board while b&w entries should be mounted on the white side of an illustration board. The title must be placed on the lower, middle part of the board. Entries should be accompanied by the negative's or data file in jpeg format, along with the duly accomplished entry form that may be acquired from any Jollibee store nationwide. For the Professional—Published category, entries must be accompanied by the original press clipping (full page to show the date and publication name). Entries must be placed in a sealed brown envelope and submitted to: Say Bee! Photo Contest / Stratworks, Inc., 7th Floor RCI Bldg., 105 Rada St. Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City.

So, what are you waiting for? The contest runs from July 15 to August 15, only. Hurry and grab your camera, focus your lens and click that shutter. Capture the good life in "Buhay Jollibee, lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya." This may just be the moment you've been waiting for!



THE NOKIA INTERVILLAGE GOLF KICKS OFF

Mobile phone leader Nokia kicked off its 2003 Nokia Intervillage Golf Tournament with an exciting elimination series held at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Now on its second year, the Nokia Intervillage Golf Tournament gathers golfers from 40 competing villages around the metro, vying for the Nokia Intervillage Cup. Teams who competed for the north sector tournament included Don Enrique Heights, Acropolis, White Plains, Filinvest, La Vista, Xavierville and St. Ignatius. Title holder Philam Homes, lead by team captain Bayani Fontanilla, topped the first round tournament. Winners from the elimination round will advance to the semi-finals and eventually to the Grand Intervillage Tournament this July. Photo shows Nokia mobile phones country general manager Parikshit Bhasin teeing off at the Manila Golf Club as Philam Homes team captain Bayani Fontanilla (extreme left) and Manila Golf Club general manager Cliff Friedman (2nd from left) look on.

Globe
Q
Solutions

GLOBEQUEST LOOKS FORWARD TO 2ND YEAR OF SUCCESS

Standing from left, Globe Telecom wireline business group head Gil Genio, SVP Rodolfo Salalima, and wireline data head Jesus Romero dedicate a toast to GlobeQUEST clients as the brand turns one year today. After a year since the GlobeQUEST brandname was launched, it has introduced six variants of broadband DSL service, and has brought clients new services such as IP-VPN (Internet Protocol-Virtual Private Network) and internet data centers, as well as a channels program. GlobeQUEST in the internet and data arm of Globe Telecom. Though the GlobeQUEST brand is a year old, Globe has been a data service provider since 1956.

Chateau 1771 sparkles at 15 with promo

SAVOR exquisite food amidst Chateau 1771's refreshing and vibrant new interiors as its launches its Crystal Raffle Promo fittingly billed as Sparkling at 15.

The premiere fine-dining restaurant in El Pueblo Real de Manila, Ortigas has recreated its interior look, elating one's spirit with an inspiring mood made more memorable and complete by its impeccable no borders cuisine. This is the kind of moment that awaits the Sparkling at 15 Crystal Party Winners as Chateau 1771 celebrates its 15 years of unmatched culinary expertise and excellent service.

The Sparkling at 15 Crystal Party winners will be given a special party good for 20 persons; ideal for a breakfast meeting, a luncheon with friends or a quaint and memorable dinner with the family.

Each of the promo winners and their friends will experience the delectable perfection of Cheteau 1771's no borders cuisine and the first-class service from its higly trained staff. Chef Vicky Rose Pacheco, the culinary genius behind the Chateau 1771 menu, will concoct delectable dishes exclusively for the Crystal Parties.

Chateau 1771 will cover all the expenses for food and non-alcoholic beverages served during the crystal parties. The raffle promo is open to all dine-in guests who redeem a minimum of six Chateau 1771 gift certificates. Each time a guest orders a P500 worth of food, he will receive a P50 worth of gift certificate. The accumulated gift certificates have to be redeemed in one meal.

Every six pieces of the P50-worth gift certificates entitles the guest to one raffle coupon. The winners will be drawn quarterly in the presence of an authorized DTI representative at Chateau 1771, El Pueblo Real de Manila, ADB Avenue corner J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas during the following dates: July 14, Sept 15, Nov. 17, and Jan. 15, 2004. Winners are requested to schedule two weeks before their Crystal Party. For inquiries and reservations, please contact telephone number 631-7339.

Sweet home anticipation at Ferndale Homes

PEOPLE on the lookout for the perfect home at the heart of Quezon City are in for a special treat as real estate leader Ayala Land, Inc. offers new and easy payment schemes for its Ferndale Homes residential subdivision.

Buyers can save as much as 6 percent on Ferndale Homes units. Further making the good life within the reach of more people, Ayala Land also offers flexible payment schemes with reduced premiums. Wit a minimum of 10 percent down payment and another 10 percent over six to eight months, and the remainder with the assurance of bank-financing, buyers can own their dream Ayala home in Quezon City. These friendly payment schemes can be availed for Phase 3 of Ferndale Homes. With Phase 3A scheduled for turnover by October 2003, you can move into your new home by the end of the year!

In addition, beginning June 29, 2003 to August 29, 2003, buyers who reserve and make their corresponding down payments 30 days after reservation will be entitled to an exiting promo: a choice between a Home Entertainment Package and a Home Improvement Package.

The Home Entertainment Package consists of one (1) unit Philips 63.5 cm (25") flat screen TV and (1) one unit Pioneer 5-disc DVD/VCD home theater system while the Home improvement Package consists of a voucher worth P50,000 for interior design or landscaping services of choice.

Ferndale Homes presents a Mediterranean experience for the progressive Filipino family. Offering the first cluster homes concept in the country, the master-planned community of three-bedroom houses promotes close neighborhood ties with its non-existent fences, excellent facilities and village management. Located along Sampaguita Ave. in Quezon City, Ferndale Homes has ready access to schools, hospitals and churches within the area.

For details, call 848-5000 or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph or email ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Bits & Clips

Rusty Lopez @ 26

IN SIMPLE but fitting ceremonies, Rusty Lopez celebrated its 26th founding anniversary recently. Suppliers, dealers, supporters and other strategic stakeholders came together to renew their commitment to understand and cater to the changing needs of the Filipino. The get-together coincided with the sales anniversary kick-off where customers shall avail 20 percent discount on all items. Accessibility and shopping convenience are its hallmarks. Over-all target is to reach more Filipinos across the map by opening more branches within the year. Rusty Lopez 26th anniversary sale is from July 18 - Aug. 31,2003.

Duncan Sheik live in Manila

SMART Buddy presents "highly acclaimed hitmaker" singer and songwriter, Duncan Sheik - An acoustic concert live in Manila. In cooperation with PLDT My-Music, Discovery Suites, No Curfew-Citizen and also brought to you by Skechers USA and Great Taste RTD, the two-day acoustic concert on July 18 and 19 (Friday and Saturday) at the Aliw Theater - CCP Complex will have guest performers Rockwell Ryan and Dain Samuelson (of Stephen Speaks) and of course, our very own Paolo Santos. Tickets are available at all Ticketworld and Ticketnet outlets, all major National Bookstore and SM branches. For more information, you may contact Select Media at 8132612 or Eventscape Manila at 5610442. Duncan Sheik Live in Manila is an Eventscape Manila and Select Media production. For more information, call 813-2617.

Acoustic night live

THE Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) advanced class 2003 will be having an acoustic concert featuring three of the most sought after performers in the music industry today: Jimmy Bondoc, Nina, & Paolo Santos today, at the Makati Sports Club. This is one of the fundraising activities of PSID in preparation for their annual exhibit this October. This concert is also for the benefit of the Bukas Palad Foundation.

RCML inducts officers, BOD

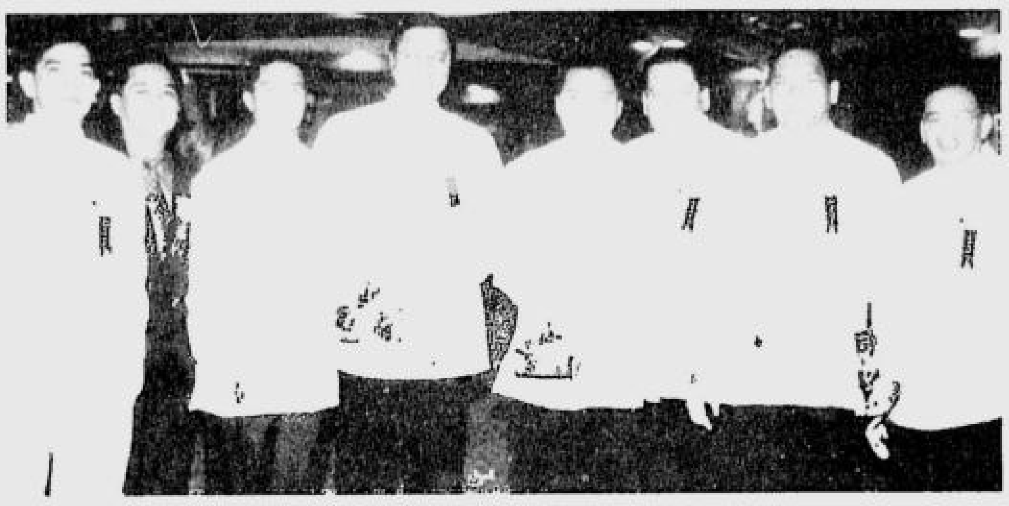
IMELDA Dizon

THE Rotary Club of Makati Legaspi will hold its induction of officers and board of directors on July 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Elected president for Rotary Year 2003 to 2004 is Imelda Dizon, finance director of Energizer Philippines Inc. Dizon replaces lawyer Rodd Poltan. The other officers elected to serve for RY 2003 to 2004 are Ramon Sanchez, president nominee and VP; Roman Valles Jr., secretary; and Marco Gabriel Ongpin, treasurer. This year's theme is "Lend a Hand."

Product Files

Oakley Big Square

OAKLEY presents the Big Square Wire. Its specifications are: ultra-lightweight hi-modulus C-5 frame material / extended lens area and increased wrap/rake for better peripheral coverage / custom-engineered spring hinge mechanisms for a comfortable, balanced fit / true metal icon accents / Plutonite lens material to block 100 percent of all UVA, UVB, UVC and harmful blue light / prescription ready.



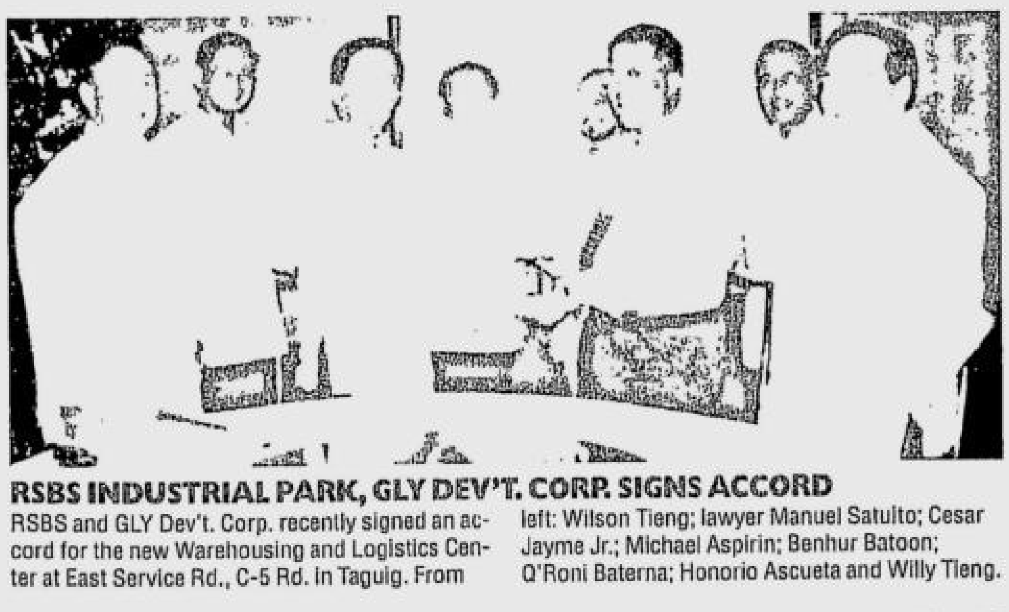
RED RIBBON BAKESHOP AWARDED AGAIN

Last July 4 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, saw the awarding of Outstanding Bakeshop and Outstanding Philippine Based International Business, to Red Ribbon Foods Corporation (RRFC). These two prestigious awards were given by the Consumer Union of the Philippines (CUP) during their 14th Annual National Consumer Awards (ANCA) night. Shown posing with their awards are (from left): Arnel Illana, district manager; Joey Alvero, franchise manager; Mario Malalis, branch operations head; Divino Villanueva, Jr., COO-EVP; Dino Francisco, marketing manager; Jorge Lontoc Jr., communications manager, Robin Fabian, product manager; and Edwin Francisco, business development manager. The CUP is an independent organization whose charter is to advance and protect the interests of the consumers. The ANCA awards symbolize the consumer's appreciation for having served and championed their interest.

2ND AEROBICS MARATHON AT THE SHANG

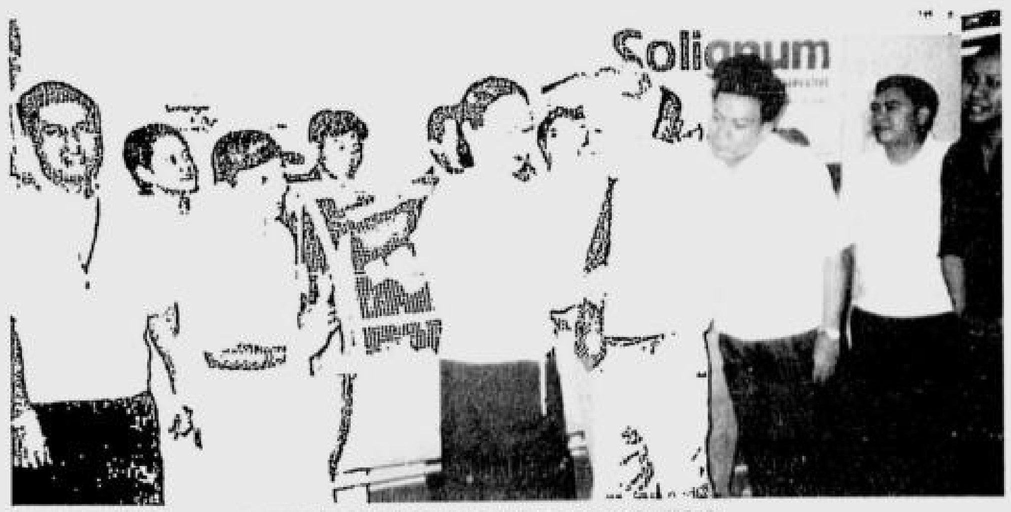
muscle,
or joint pain
you, apply...
tare

Capezio Fitness Center in collaboration with Shangri-La Plaza Mall held an aerobics marathon dubbed 'The 'R' Fun 2nd Aerobics Marathon' at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Mall. In line with Capezio Fitness Center's various annual summer arts and activities, the said marathon was open to all aerobics and sports enthusiasts. Numerous members of health and fitness centers and sports club participated in the activity. Major corporate sponsors provided the prizes and assorted gift packs to the athletes and audience who joined the marathon. In photo are the initiators of 'The 'R' Fun 2nd Aerobics Marathon' in the row above: presentor Mark Dungo; owner of Capezio Fitness Center Kathy Hizon; judge Ole Eugenio; presentor Fhe Samia and host Carla Martines with the winners in the advance category, champions Ferdie Obando and Karen Villanueva, 2nd placers Jojo Francisco and Joyce Basco and 3rd placer Jonabel Gavieta.



RSBS INDUSTRIAL PARK, GLY DEV'T. CORP. SIGNS ACCORD

RSBS and GLY Dev't. Corp. recently signed an accord for the new Warehousing and Logistics Center at East Service Rd., C-5 Rd. in Taguig. From left: Wilson Tieng; lawyer Manuel Satuito; Cesar Jayme Jr.; Michael Aspirin; Benhur Batoon; Q'Roni Baterna; Honorio Ascueta and Willy Tieng.



SOLIGNUM '1-2-3 EASY MONEY' RAFFLE WINNERS

Photo shows (from left) Ayi Anico, senior manager, Jardine Davis Inc. (JDI); Gertrudes Perez, DTI representative; Geoff Thomas, JDI senior vice president, and Edwin Hernandez, JDI assistant vice president for marketing drawing the names of the lucky winners of the Solignum nationwide promotion.

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One (1) **LEGAL RESEARCHER** (Item No: LGLCON002)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job and holder of CS Prof / Second Level Eligibility

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Qualifications: HS Graduate or completion of a relevant vocational//trade course; with 1 year relevant experience, 4 hours of relevant training and holder of Heavy Equipment Operator eligibility

One Hundred Seventy Six (176) **O/M TECHNICIAN B** (Item Nos: SPUCON003-01 to -53 & SPUCON004-01 to -53 - Luzon Assignment; SPUCON008-01 to -35 - Visayas Assignment; SPUCON011-01 to -35 - *Mindanao Assignment*)
Qualifications: HS Graduate or completion of a relevant vocational/trade course; with 2 years relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training and holder of *Mechanical Equipment Operator eligibility.*

Twelve (12) **O/M TECHNICIAN C** (Item Nos: SPUCON006-01 to -12) - Luzon Assign.
Qualifications. HS Graduate or completion of a relevant vocational/trade course; with 2 years relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training and holder of *Mechanical Equipment Operator eligibility*

Eleven (11) **SR. CLERK** (Item Nos: SPUCON007-01 to -05) - Luzon Assignment; SPUCON009-01 to -03 - Visayas Assignment; SPUCON013-01 to -03 - *Mindanao Assignment*)
Qualifications: Completion of 2 years Studies in College with 1 year relevant experience, 4 hours of relevant training and holder of CS Subprof/First Level Eligibility

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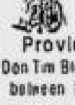

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"A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth" – Ecclesiastes 7:1

In Loving Memory of

Aldrin Castro Tanay

On his first death anniversary
Tuesday, July 15, 2003

His spouse, **Fides**, their daughter, **Felicity Anne**, and his parents, **Atty. and Mrs. Emil and Virgie Tanay**, parents-in-law, **Mr. and Mrs. Herick and Elsa Ventura**, his sisters, brothers, and their spouses: **Marivic, Gerty and Steve, Alex and Cristy, Jun and Arlene, Edwin and Maris, and Alan and Maan**; his sister-in-law, **Jazz**, and brother-in-law, **Hector**, his nephews **Christian and Luis**, and nieces, **Ana, Agatha, Angela, and Cristal**, remember with gratitude to God the inspiring life he had shared with many — abounding in cheer, untiring in devotion, selfless in giving, and in all things, steadfast in hope.

His loved ones also wish to extend their sincerest thanks to all who have offered prayers, flowers, masses, and in some other way lent comfort through the difficult moments the past year had brought, and request their continued prayers for the eternal repose of their dearly beloved **Aldrin**.

Holy masses will be offered in this occasion – Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Q.C., 10:00 am. San Isidro Labrador Parish, Malinta, Valenzuela City, 6:00 am, Nuestra Senora del Carmen Parish, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, 7:00 am.

In Memory
of the 1st Death Anniversary of

ENGR. DOMINGO B. ASTUDILLO

(January 4, 1914 – July 15, 2002)

His wife **PACITA**; his children **EDGAR, EVELYN MATE, ELNORA DAVA, ENRICO, ELITO, EMMANUEL** (†), and **EPHRAIM**, their spouses, and his grandchildren have offered Masses at the following churches:

St. James The Great Parish *Ayala Alabang Village*	6:30 P.M.
Christ The King Parish *Greenmeadows Subd., Q.C.*	6:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Parish *Scout Ybardolaza St., Kamuning, Q.C.*	5:30 A.M.

A special Holy Mass will be celebrated at Christ The King Parish, Lower Chapel, Greenmeadows Subd., Q.C. at 7:00 P.M., July 15, 2003.

"For God
so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only
begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

CLAUDIO C. BATILES

Died on July 12, 2003
At the age of 77.

His loving children **LOLIT, LAI, COSSETTE** and **LULU**; sons-in-law **JESS, ROLLIE, DENNIS**; grandchildren and other relatives mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 17, 2003 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Premier Suite 2 of the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

"And... I will dwell in the House of the Lord... Forever."
Psalm 23

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MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City. Tels (075) 515-5660, 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870, Tel No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426, Fax: 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels 646-1725, 646-1730
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City. Tels 427-8412, 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City. Tels 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel Nos 843-8838 30, Fax No. 843-8223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila. Tels 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Tels 372-5084, 410-9286/87
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tels 493-4456, 493-4540
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Amaiz St., Pasay City. Tels 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tel 302-5447

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of Very High Frequency/Frequency Modulation (VHF/FM) Radio Transceiver, Handheld Configuration**, with an approved budget of **Three Hundred Ninety One Million, Seven Hundred Forty Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 391,747,200.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2000 and CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment and who have or will establish an in-country manufacturing capability for this type of radio shall be entertained.

Bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **July 14, 2003** until **July 31, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Thirty Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 39,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 31, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **August 21, 2003 at 08:30 a.m.** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **09:00 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G CAROLINA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 15 & 21, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website www.pdic.gov.ph; Email info@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers to apply for eligibility and if found to be eligible, to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of any or all of the following IT hardware:

QTY	HARDWARE	APPROVED BUDGET in Philippine Pesos
268	Branded desktop computers	17,550,000
41	Branded notebook computers	4,510,000
40	Lightweight branded notebook computers	4,400,000
3	Rack mountable file servers	3,000,000
12	Network switches	1,587,000
45	Uninterruptible power supply	1,125,000
13	Portable laser printers	429,000
39	Dot matrix printers	1,287,000

The Application for Eligibility and Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested bidders starting July 21-25, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

All accomplished eligibility forms and supporting documents should be submitted to the above office on or before 3:00 PM of July 30, 2003.

Only those found eligible shall be invited to submit their financial bids. The pre-bid conference shall be held on August 7, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Submission and opening of bids shall be on August 21, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the same venue.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(FOR GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS)

(PDI–July 15 & 22, 2003)

AVOID ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT
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Watch out for the
Mini Job Fair
AT GLORIETTA
July 21 to 16, 2003
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.
JOB Market

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

Date June 30, 2003
Reference No.: ____________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code **Sp98.KBSS.Vt.0233**
   Title **Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69KV Substation Equipment under the Negros III - Panay III Substation Projects, Schedule II - Bacolod Substation**
   Location **Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City**
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing all substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69kV Substation Equipment for Schedule II - Bacolod Substation in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes construction of new control house, open-sided warehouse, pump house, oil water separator and water tank and water tank foundation.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **FORTY THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY SIX (PHP 43,510,396.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License at least **"Category AA - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
   Registration at least **"Large A - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **July 01, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 5:00 p.m. of **August 01, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt:
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 4, 9 & 15, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-005

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 27, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5A1	OVERHEAD CRANE PARTS	3MBC03-0155(ZC)	P 1,320,000.00
5A2	PIPE EXPANSION JOINTS	3MBC03-0179(ZC)	P 1,758,000.00
5A3	ROTATING TERMINAL ASSEMBLY	3MBC03-0154(RP)	P 1,800,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 27, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5B1	PIPE EXPANSION JOINTS	3MGP03-0174(RP)	P 1,758,000.00
5B2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS TOOLS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE REHAB OF EXISTING WELLS AT PLANT D (2WELLS)	3MKD03-0171(ZC)	P 1,800,000.00
5B3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS TOOLS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE DRILLING OF ONE (1) WELL AND REHAB OF (1) WELL AT MAKBAN PLANT E	3MKE03-0172(ZC)	P 3,059,600.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 28, 2003; 10:00 AM			
5C1	MECHANICAL SEAL, TYPE AB4-KEF	3TPM03-015(RP)	P 1,500,000.00
5C2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MAT'LS TOOLS-EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISION IN THE REPAINTING OF 230KV SWITCHYARD STRUCTURES OF TIWI GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT A&C WITH ZINC GALVANIC ANTICORROSION PAINT	3TPM03-020(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 28, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5D1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MATERIALS TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISION IN THE REPLACEMENT OF OUTDOOR INSTRUMENT AIR PIPINGS AND TUBINGS AT PLANT A, B & C	3TPM03-024(RP)	P 900,000.00
5D2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING SUPERVISION IN THE REHAB OF 13.8KV TRANSMISSION AND COMMUNICATION LINES	3TPM03-004(RP)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 1, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5E1	OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE HIRE STRENGTH GRADE 5000FT/REEL 3/8 OR 7/16, 2-REEL INSULATORS TENSION/SUSPENSION	3TGP02-065(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
5E2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE REHAB OF VARIOUS VALVE ACTUATORS OF UNIT 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6	3TGP03-018(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
5E3	J.O.-REPAIR/RECONDITIONING OF 15 UNITS COOLING WATER VALVES CV-7A AND 7B, CV-9 @ PLANT A & C	3TGP03-011(RP)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5F1	BN MACHINERY DIAGNOTIC SYSTEM ADRE FOR WINDOWS SYSTEM PACKAGE	3BAC03-0249(RP)	P 7,803,348.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5G1	SPAREPARTS FOR NEUMAN & ESSER AIR COMPRESSORS OF BAC-MAN 1	3BAC03-0328(RP)	P 4,916,381.81
5G2	EMERGENCY TRIP MECHANISM, JOURNAL BEARING, HP OIL PRESSURE REGULATOR & EMERGENCY OIL RELIEF VALVE	3BAC03-0378(RP)	P 8,865,450.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5H1	ELECTROMATIC RELIEF VALVE ASSEMBLY, BRAND: DRESSER	MCF/MS02-0649(JP)	P 3,600,000.00
5H2	PVC PIPES, ELBOWS, TEES & COUPLINGS PIPES, ELBOWS, TEES, FLANGES & COUPLINGS	MCF/MS03-0241(JP) MCF/MS03-0242(JP)	P 720,440.00 P 683,500.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5I1	ROTARY LOBE BLOWER	MCF/MS03-0117(LS)	P 2,275,400.00
5I2	1-AMINO 4-METHYL PIPERADINE	MCF/CS03-0118(ZC)	P 1,560,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5J1	ELECTRONIC CARD (DC 125V BATTERY CHARGER)	5PG2-03-019(LS)	P 1,820,880.00
5J2	POSITIONER VALVES & RELAY ASSEMBLY	5PG1-03-041(LS)	P 1,216,100.00
5J3	POWER SUPPLY, TRANSIDYNE UNITS & AMPLIFIER	5PG2-03-026(LS)	P 2,355,300.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5K1	STEEL STRIP & PLATE FOR FABRICATION OF AIR HEATER ELEMENTS OF BCF	OOMR-03-008(JS)	P 7,945,500.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

5B2-5B3	AUGUST 12, 2003, 10:00 AM	5F1, 5G1 & 5G2	AUGUST 15, 2003, 2:00 PM
C2 5D1 & 5D2	AUGUST 12, 2003, 2:00 PM	5H1 & 5I1	AUGUST 21, 2003, 10:00 AM
5E1-5E3	AUGUST 15, 2003, 9:00 AM	5J3 & 5K1	AUGUST 21, 2003, 2:00 PM

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on July 21, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued 7 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - July 15 & 23, 2003)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) invites interested Contractors to submit Application for Eligibility, and, if found eligible, to Bid subsequently for the Project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Improvement Works for the Proposed BCDA New Office at Bonifacio Technology Center and Old Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila	Improvement Works (Interior) for the Proposed BCDA New Office	At least Large "A" for Buildings	At least Category "AA"	P35.0M/ BCDA Corporate Funds	75 calendar days

Prospective Contractors should have completed a similar contract of at least 50% of the ABC of the Project for bidding within the last five (5)-years.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BCDA to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation, and the bidder to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright.

For those interested, Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance on **21-28 July 2003**, upon submission of the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Award Committee-B (BAC-B);
2. Certified true copy of PCAB License;
3. Certified true copy of DTI or SEC Certificate of Registration;
4. Certified true copy of Mayor's permit/Municipal License;
5. Certified true copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number;
6. Statement that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP; and
7. Certification, under oath, that each of the photocopied documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;

and payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Two Thousand and 00/100 (P2,000.00)** at the BCDA Corporate Centre, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 PM of **01 August 2003** at the address mentioned above.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Mr. Samuel L. Vidallon or BAC-B Secretariat at tel. no. 551-30-06 up to 11.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REGINA SALVE R. LAPUZ**
BAC-B Chairman

(PDI--July 15 & 23, 2003)

BCDA

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of Block 55 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 is available at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 23 July 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambiè L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–July 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

Would you like to be at the core of the marketing arena?
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The Philippine Marketing Association

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A Marketers' Marketplace:

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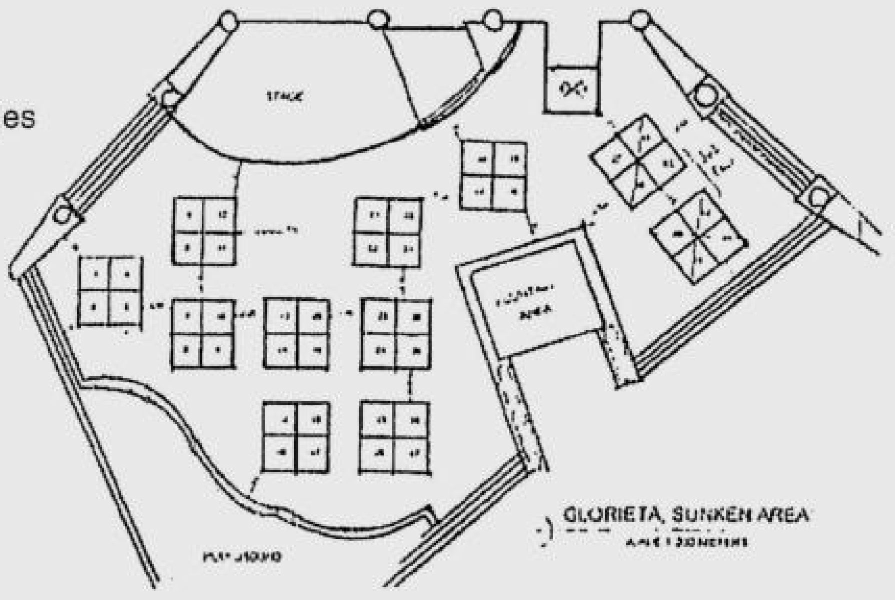
a week-long trade exhibit
in celebration of
National Marketing Month

on
21-26 July 2003

at the
Glorietta Activity Center
Makati City



*Hurry! Limited booths available.

National Marketing Month Schedule of Activities:

July 01-17 Campus Tour Lecture Series
- 01 – Polytechnic University of the Philippines
- 02 – De La Salle University – Taft
- 03 – New Era University
- 04 – Asia Pacific College
- 07 – Philippine School of Business and Arts
- 08 – San Beda College
- 09 – University of Sto. Tomas
- 10 – Far Eastern University
- 11 – Thames Internationa. School
- 14 – Ateneo de Manila University
- 16 – Assumption College
- 17 – St. Benedict College

July 18 Stratmark (Strategic Marketing) Lecture Series
Reception Hall, PICC, Pasay City

July 21-26 Week-long Trade Exhibit / Youth Contest
Activity Area, Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City

For Inquiries, contact Richard Anonuevo at 892-3144/813-0466/893-7127/893-6459 or fax 892-3261 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

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V LUNA GENERAL HOSPITAL
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Anesthesiology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Clinical Pathology	Otorhinolaryngology
General Surgery	Pediatrics
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Neurosurgery	Radiology
Obstetrics-Gynecology	Urology
Ophthalmology	

Deadline for submission of application: July 23, 2003
Written qualifying examination: AFPMC Auditorium at (8:00 a.m.) on July 26, 2003 (Saturday)

For inquiries:
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CLINICS
Chief Gustilo and Sgt Largo)
Telephone Nos. 426-2701 loc. 66-33 / 921-1748

REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENCY TRAINING EXAMINATION
1. Personal Data Sheet - 2 copies
2. Latest photographs / two - 2"x2" picture
3. **Board Rating - 2 xeroxed copies
4. **Transcript of Records - 2 xeroxed copies
5. **Certificate of Internship - 2 xeroxed copies
6. **Certificate of non-pending case (NBI) - 2 xeroxed copies
7. Folder long - 2 pcs.
8. Recommendation from Chief, Surgeon of Major Service Command/The Surgeon General, AFP for AFPWSSU's and Area Commands (APPLICABLE FOR MILITARY DOCTORS ONLY)

**(Authenticated)

Only those applicants who where able to comply with the above requirements will be allowed to take the examination. Applicants should be single and not more than - thirty (30) years old. Height - 5'2" or 157.48 cms (Female), 5'4" or 162.56 cms (Male)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that Ms. LENIE BASILIO IS NOT IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH OUR COMPANY. SHE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECRUIT WORKERS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT USING OUR NAME. THEREFORE, ALL HER TRANSACTIONS RELATED THERETO IS ILLEGAL AND WILL NOT BE HONORED BY OUR OFFICE.

THE MANAGEMENT
ADMAN HUMAN RESOURCES
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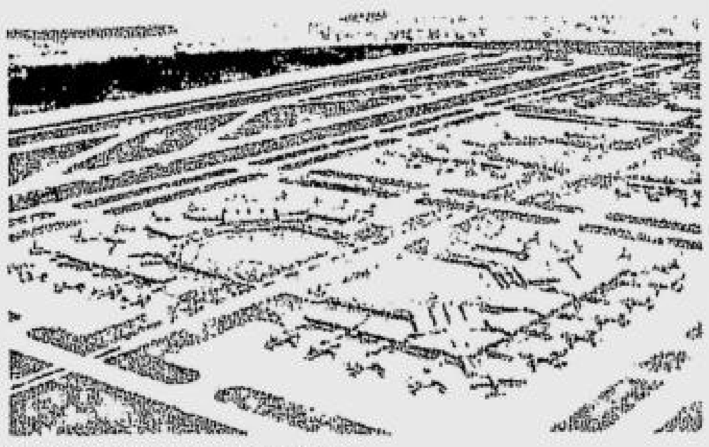


WORLD-CLASS AIRPORT
The master plan for the proposed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport was recently submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to the National Economic and Development Authority for approval. The P25-billion complex can handle six million passsengers yearly. It has a floor area of 85,000 to 100,000 square meters that can accommodate 19,355 passengers on peak days (2-way). It can handle 34 Boeing 747-300 flights on peak days (2-way). Sixty-six check-in counters, 45 immigration counters, 8 airport tax counters and 18 baggage claims are included in the design.

Edsa Central resurrects

By Charles E. Buban

IT WAS more than 23 years ago when this premier commercial destination at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard first came into being.

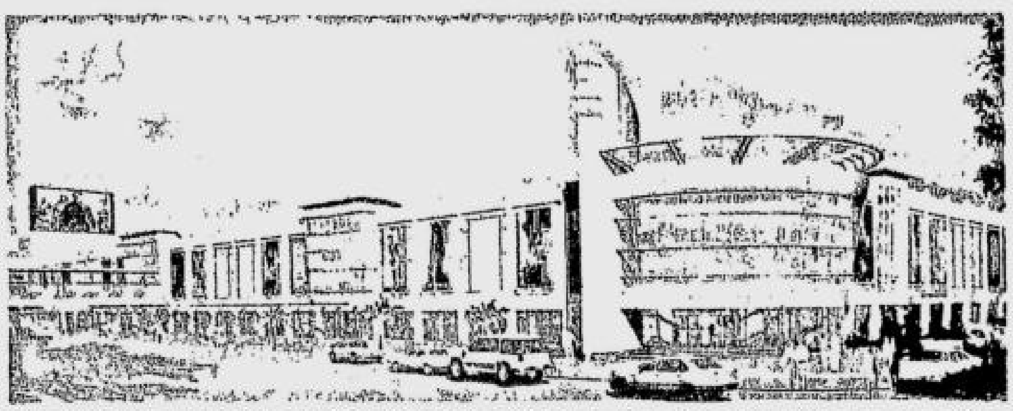
At that time, Edsa Central Commercial Complex is the only commercial and entertainment destination of Mandaluyong City as most of its surroundings were nothing but patches of cogon land and scattered office buildings.

But Greenfield Development Corp. saw beyond this landscape and built its flagship commercial project that stood unchallenged for three decades.

But as the area grew into one of the most progressive and busiest parts of Metro Manila, GDC saw the need to recreate Edsa Central into something that would reflect the city's transformation.

Converging point

"Edsa Central still remains to be a major converging point for thousands of commuters but we want to offer them something better," explained Greenfield vice president Duane Santos.



THE NEW Edsa Central Mall features state-of-the-art engineering and architecture.

This is the reason the 25-hectare property is undergoing a major facelift which is expected for completion by yearend.

"We are building a new mall on the same spot that has since become a landmark to all," Santos added.

The New Edsa Central Mall will offer amenities including escalators and elevators located at key areas, comfort rooms in the upper levels, as well as on each of the food shops, all for the convenience of people who are always on the move.

Food Court area

More than 3,000 square meters of space are allotted for the Food Court area on the second level, which can seat more than 900 customers and will be served by 14 of the country's best fast-food outlets.

"Al fresco dining will also be available at the Food Court's balcony overlooking the entire Edsa Central Complex," Santos revealed.

This unique dining experience is also a component of other restaurants on the ground floor located on Sto. Cristo Avenue.

Said Santos: "We will give our patrons all these and a lot more. We want them to enjoy themselves while shopping, dining, or simply unwinding."

Only link

The new Edsa Central will still remain an important link for thousands of commuters coming from the eastern towns of Rizal province.

Ever since, the property has accommodated fleets of public transports such as jeepneys, buses and mega taxis plying the routes of these towns.

And with the direct link now provided by the Shaw Boulevard MRT station, Santos estimated that 200,000 people will visit the new complex every day.

"While walking through the complex to get their rides, we intend to pamper them with the best there is in a mall development," assured Santos.

Three levels

With an arcade and 3.5 meter-wide sidewalks, the new mall will feature three levels of shopping outlets plus an activity center and a Catholic chapel.

A "clerestory" or reinforced frosted glass as windows and a curved, ultra-high ceiling will serve as New Edsa Central's defining architecture.

"This will give the mall a view of an expansive, airy and illuminated place, like an urban oasis amid the city's hustle and bustle life," Santos explained.

The open space at the ground level will become a perfect rendezvous cum relaxing spot for its clientele. This will feature water fountains, plants and leisure benches laid out to create a park-like ambience.

CALIFORNIA-STYLE strip mall

Strip mall answers community needs of residents, workers

THE COMMUNITY needs of workers and residents in Quezon City are now being provided by what could be a new trend in land development. With the availability of bigger lot sizes in areas with growing commercial potentials, "pocket" development is becoming a service-oriented endeavor.

In the Scout area in particular, the presence of broadcast facilities brings emerging realities in dining and entertainment. With the stress brought by the accelerated pace of life in the metropolis, there is an increasing demand for venues between home and office or school where both the young and the old can hang out, unwind or relax.

The key is strategic geographical location and the primary concern is convenience. It is observed that food street is moving from West Avenue to Scout Morato and then from a loop to a convenience mall.

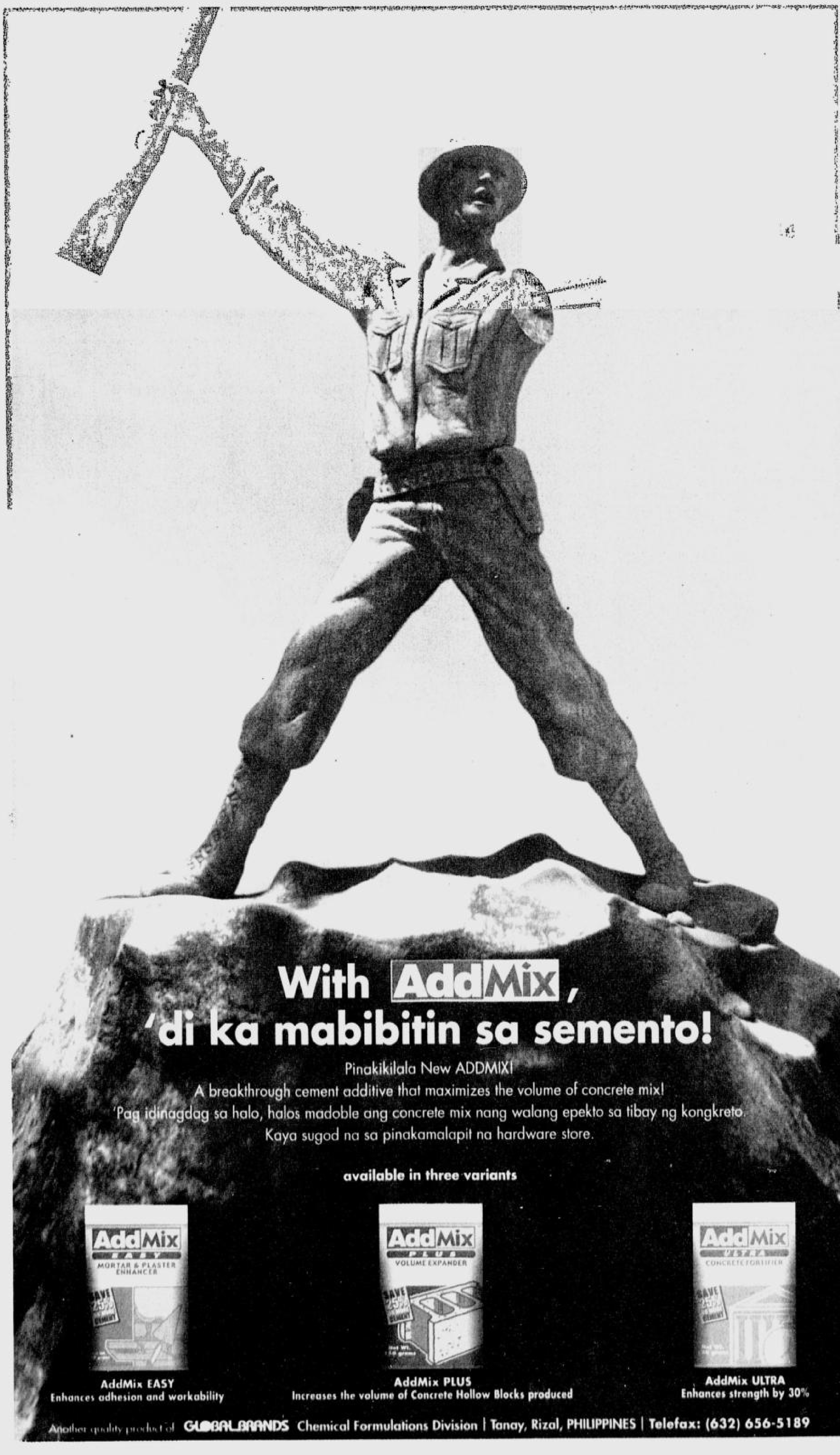
Latest style

The latest style in construction is a move away from high-rise design toward a California-style strip mall the most colorful of which is Sunshine Plaza Boulevard, at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Scout Santiago. It houses a bank, a pawnshop, a dental clinic, a spa, a comedy club, a fast-food chain, a bar, coffeeshops and a Japanese restaurant tucked away at the end of the strip.

Home of the bewitching koi fish or fancy carp, symbol of wisdom, courage and long life, Genki Japanese Restaurant is worth visiting. Habitués from nearby offices find it refreshing to watch the spirited koi swim and to listen to the bubbling sound coming from the giant aquarium, the focal point of an uncluttered, contemporary interior.

Japanese-style power-meals are generously served in trays to energize the weary and provide good value for money. Groups can opt to use a private room for as few as four people or two function rooms can be joined to accommodate 20 people.

A Japanese word for good, Genki, which is at the heart of this strip mall development, could signal a positive trend in fostering real property solutions for the modern, hectic lifestyle.



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Understanding blueprints

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

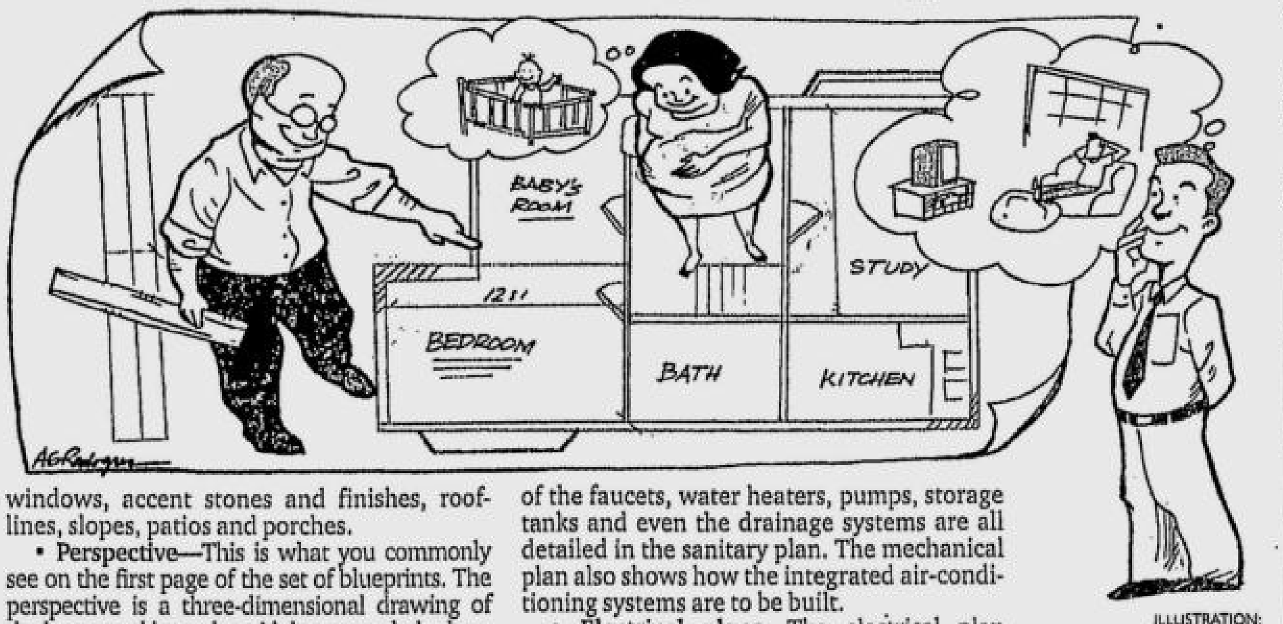


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BEFORE ANYONE can construct a house, building, bridge or any infrastructure, there has to be a set of plans, design documents and contract specifications. Blueprints are a set of documents that illustrate the details of a structure that has to be completed or constructed. These details include the dimensions, location, orientation, materials to be used and how they are going to be constructed. Since a blueprint is a technical illustration of the plans for a house or building, then looking at it for the first time (especially for a nontechnical person) can be difficult and frustrating.

If you are going to have your home built pretty soon, it may be a wise idea to learn how to read a blueprint. The various plans inside a blueprint include:

- **Location plan**—The location plan describes the property in relation to the city or municipality where it is located. The major landmarks are sometimes included in the location plan. The location of the property with reference to the block and lots within the subdivision is illustrated in the location plan.
- **Site development plan**—The site development plan shows the footprint of the proposed house in relation to the property boundaries. It details the setbacks at all sides of the house. The location of the drainage utilities, water supply system and electrical system entrance points are also detailed in the site development plan.
- **Floor plan**—Depending on the number of floors, the floor plan shows the layout of the house. The main entry, bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and garage are laid out in detail in the floor plans. All living spaces are labeled with dimensions including the exact location of the doors and windows. Even the direction of the swing of the doors can be seen in the floor plans.

The second floor plan and the attic plan are similar to the first floor plan only that they describe the details of the living spaces found in the upper floors. For multistory buildings, a typical floor plan is used to describe the plan that is followed for most of the upper floors.

- **Elevation**—The elevation describes the exterior view of the house from the front, left side, right side and the rear as if you were looking at the house standing. Elevations also show such details as the type of sidings used, windows, accent stones and finishes, rooflines, slopes, patios and porches.
- **Perspective**—This is what you commonly see on the first page of the set of blueprints. The perspective is a three-dimensional drawing of the house and is used to aid the user to help them better visualize how the completed house should look like. These are also used as marketing materials of real estate developers. Many plans these days offer a computer-generated three-dimensional perspective as computer graphics technology has influenced greatly the development of designs in the building industry.
- **Cross section**—Imagine if you would cut your house like a piece of bread, then a cross section would show you the interior details of the home. These cross sections aid the builder in understanding better how the interior of the structure to be built should look like.
- **Structural plan**—The structural plan shows you the reinforcing bar details and the thickness of the concrete that has to be used for the structure. For steel and wooden framed structures, the details of the structural member sizes and connections are shown.

This structural plan consists of the foundations for the house, the frames and walls including the ceilings and even the roofing plan. Depending on the materials chosen by the owner and the designer, the structural plan will be used by the contractor in following the specifications that are needed for the safe construction of the home. A structural design conforms to the requirements of the structural and building code and is subject to review and approval by the building official.

- **Mechanical/sanitary plan**—The mechanical and sanitary plans show the layout of the water system of the house. The location of the faucets, water heaters, pumps, storage tanks and even the drainage systems are all detailed in the sanitary plan. The mechanical plan also shows how the integrated air-conditioning systems are to be built.
- **Electrical plans**—The electrical plan shows the layout of the wiring system that will be constructed for the house. The locations of the lighting fixtures, outlets and switches are all shown in the electrical plan. Being familiar with the electrical symbols will help you identify the specific locations of the outlets and lights in your house. Upon looking at it, imagine where you will place your furniture and you may wish to add additional outlets to accommodate your additional appliances.
- **Landscaping plans**—A landscaping plan shows you all the details of the areas surrounding the structure including the types of stones and how they are to be laid out, lighting, shrubs, plants, trees, flowers, trellises, driveways and even swimming pools. A professional landscape architect usually does a landscaping plan separately.

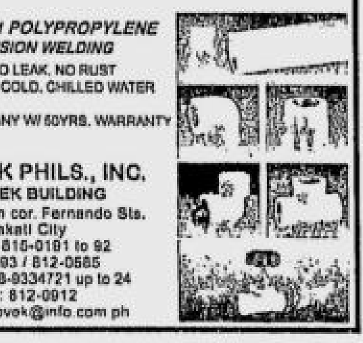
Understanding floor plans

If this is your first time to look at a floor plan, a good way to visualize how your house would look like is to imagine yourself inside a specific area. Ask yourself about the important features that you would want to be included in your home. If you cannot imagine the dimensions, ask your designer or contractor to show you how the room or the living space would measure up when completed.

One person never does the blueprint of a house but it is a combined effort of various professionals who are well versed with their specific fields of expertise. They work together to integrate and deliver to you a well-designed home.

Being able to understand floor plans is a very effective tool in having a smooth and stress-free construction of your home. Good luck in your home construction.

(For comments and advice you may reach Alexis A. Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952 0684.)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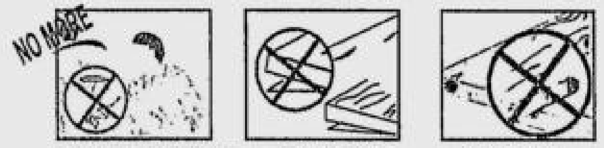
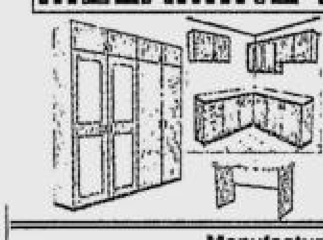
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Architectural designs. . .

From page B12

manner. Felix Candela was one of his chief mentors in the Escuela Technica Superior de Arquitectura, Valencia, until he graduated in 1973. In 1975, he commenced a course of study in civil engineering in Zurich.

Manahan, who discussed biotecture among Filipino architects, said Calatrava drew inspiration in the growth and form of the world nature. Calatrava does not draw upon nature as a repository of forms nor a source of decorative ideas. Nature provides the stimuli for his creative process.

"Certain images occur in his structures: rib cages, vertebrae, branching trees as well as kinetic forms as the human eye, twisting human torso, galloping horses, bird's wings and spinning spider webs. Given the harmonic derivations from nature, he favors symmetry while exploring the possibilities of structures with moving parts," Manahan said.

Intrigued

"What really intrigued me were the Egyptians who used two types of capitals for columns: the lotus bud and the lotus in bloom. It was only later when I was introduced to sunlight and history that I discovered the lotus bud as a column capital was applied in hallways that were dimly lighted, while the lotus in bloom was applied to capitals exposed to the sun," he said.

Manahan said this idea was a biologic rationale applied in the halls of the Temple of Karnak.

He cited as example the date palms as column capitals in classic Egyptian structures as well as the Greco-Roman orders using flora in their capitals.

Manahan's interest, he said, was sharpened when he completed a research on passive cooling for the Ministry of Energy under Geronimo Velasco in the mid 1970s.

"It was during this period that I realized that the building elements of biology and architecture were the same: gravity, the sun, water and wind," he told the INQUIRER.

Manahan added that these were dynamic energies that physicists, chemists and mathematicians wanted to understand, synthesize and formulate applications for toward improving society.

Manahan's lecture that took place a few weeks ago featured interesting and visually pleasing photo illustrations and updates on some of the great biotecture practitioners of the times.

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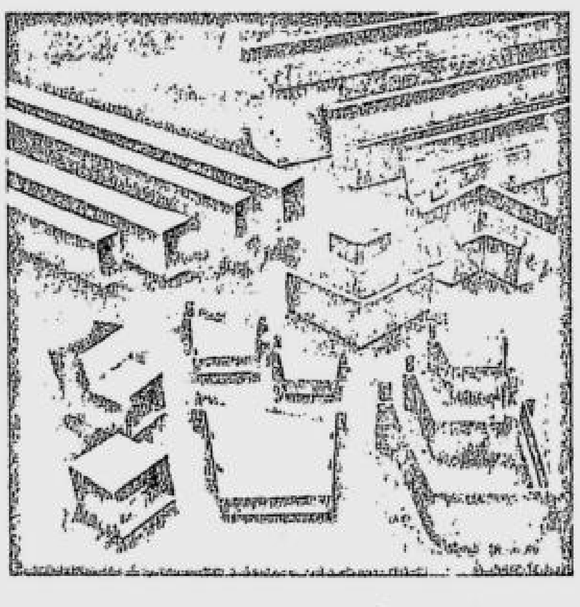

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Architectural designs taken from nature

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOU look at today's sophisticated man-made structures, you would find that some of them are patterned after nature.

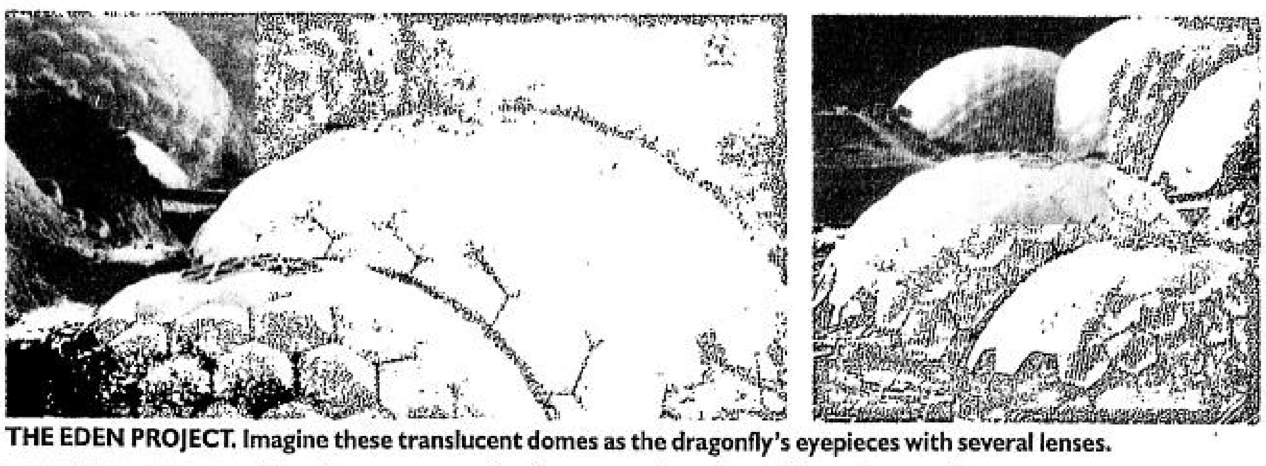
Biological architecture, or "biotecture," is applied by architects to produce human habitats compatible with the habitats of other life forms on earth.

Experts say these types of shelters are wholly integrated into the natural cycle of water, the sun and air, using clean energy and reusable materials, and are capable of changing in response to varying conditions.

Biotecture also advocates the merger of essentials on how living plants and animals sustain their life cycles.

Symbiotic relationship

A Filipino architect has been intrigued with the symbiotic relationship between nature and architecture. The fascination of Geronimo V. Manahan, Ph.D., with biotecture prompted him to take a close look at recurring ideas from nature and make a comprehensive survey of biotecture.


THE EDEN PROJECT. Imagine these translucent domes as the dragonfly's eyepieces with several lenses.

He found out that, knowingly or otherwise, some Filipino architects and designers were already employing one form or another of "biotectural" concepts and principles.

Manahan said the practice of biotecture began just after World War II, when the congruence in the disciplines of basic sciences took root. Many architects and designers then were looking for unifying theories.

"For architecture, especially in the developing world, architects realized that the international style of architecture as well as the paradigms of modern architecture would not generate complete solutions to the problems of shelter in their part of the world," he said.

Architects from the developing world intended to investigate their own culture's use of indigenous structures as inspirations and models. They concluded that the solutions to the problems of habitat would mean going back to nature; the east had a lot of answers to give on this matter. The energy crunch of the 1970s hastened the need for biotecture in developing countries.

Manahan cited Nicolas Grimshaw and Partners as the firm that is known for high-technology architecture.

Biggest greenhouse

Grimshaw and Partners designed the biggest greenhouse in the world with nature in mind.

With the use of computer modeling, advanced materials and precision engineering, the design genius of the partnership is put to fore for a significantly large and light complex of geodesic domes.

Called the Eden Project, it will encapsulate within the structures a tropical botanical garden and the flora of the warm temperate climate; located in the northerly latitude of southwest England.

Linked structures made up of a series of four joined geodesic domes each spanning up to 130 meters will be clad in a flexible synthetic material only one percent of the weight of glass. Imagine these translucent domes as the dragonflies' eyepieces with several lenses.

Manahan cited in his Biotecture paper Santiago Calatrava, the Spanish architect who had a unique biotectural approach to his structures.

The soaring arches of a bridge, canopy or building simultaneously expose and harmonize massive bone structures.

Calatrava puts emphasis on the integration of technology and esthetics in an organic

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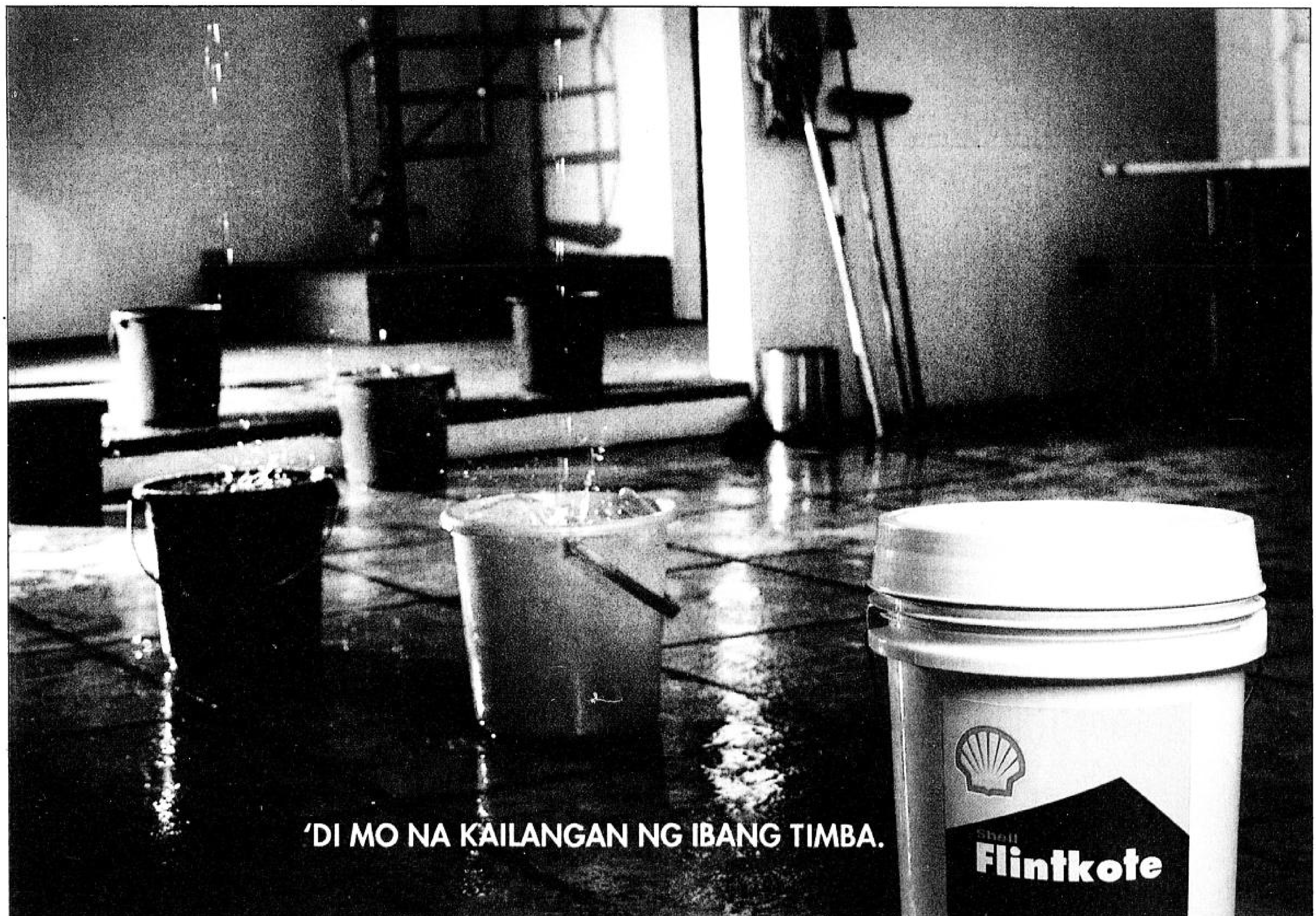

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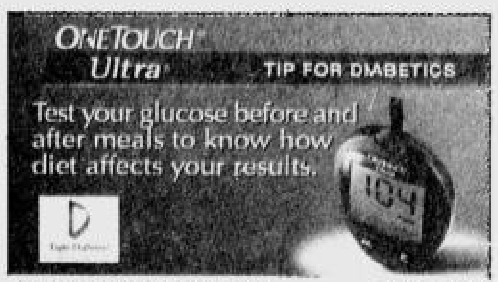
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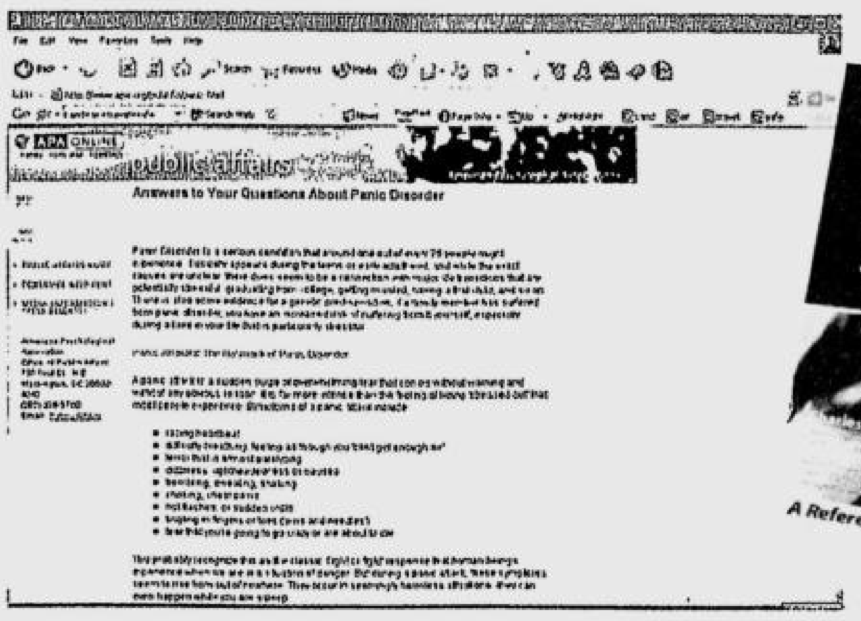
Attacking panic attacks

Some ways to avoid letting undue anxiety rule your life

By Pam Pastor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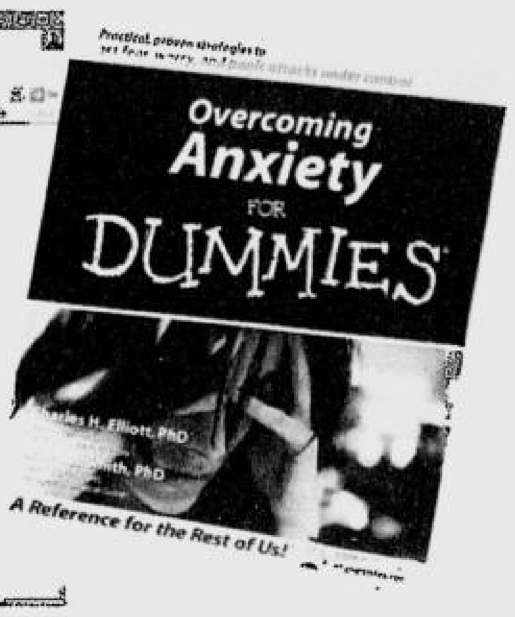
Answers to Your Questions About Panic Disorder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I HAD my first panic attack at the age of 22.

"Just get off here," the cab driver told me one night two months ago, explaining that his battery was dying and he needed to bring his car to a repair shop.

Strangely, the driver's words filled me with dread. I felt as if something bad was going to happen, like there was impending doom.

The cab sped off without me, leaving me standing on the sidewalk, trembling, heart pounding, knees shaking. I was so scared I didn't even notice I had started crying.

After what seemed like eternity, I was able to get a cab to drive me to my mom's place. Even on the road, I was still crying. I didn't know what happened. I thought I was going crazy.

Two words kept resonating in my head. "Panic attack."

When I got to my destination, I went online and looked it up. The symptoms were all there—"racing heartbeat, difficulty in breathing, terror that is almost paralyzing, lightheadedness, trembling, sweating, shaking, fear that you're going to go crazy or are about to die."

I was right—it was a panic attack.

Two weeks later, I was able to sit down with Dr. Maria Root, a clinical psychologist from Seattle and the Washington State Psychological Association's past president and awards committee chair, to discuss my problem and panic attacks in general.

According to various online resources, "a panic attack is a sudden surge of overwhelming fear that comes without warning and without any obvious reason. It is far more intense than the feeling of being 'stressed out' that most people experience."

Although it is not dangerous, a panic attack may be alarming and frightening because it makes one feel crazy and out of control. Others even mistake it for a heart attack.

About 5 percent of the world's population will experience a panic attack at least once in their lives. Some people experience just one or two, while other people have attacks that recur for years.

One panic attack does not make a panic disorder. A panic disorder is characterized by the persistent fear of having future panic attacks and may only be diagnosed by licensed therapists. If you suffer from repeated panic attacks and have constant fear of having another, that may be the time to consult professionals.

Of course, there are things that you can do for yourself, too, whether you had just one or multiple attacks.

- **Don't keep it a secret.** Having experienced a panic attack isn't something to be ashamed of. According to the "The Panic Attack Recovery Book" by Shirley Swede and Seymour Sheppard Jaffe, M.D., Dr. David Barlow, professor of psychology and director for the Center of Anxiety and Related Disorders at Boston University, once said at a phobia conference that panic attacks "can happen to almost anyone when we're overtired, overstressed or run-down."

Some people who experience panic attacks refuse to tell anyone about it out of fear that people will think they're going crazy.

But keeping these things bottled up inside might only make things worse. Keeping silent about it when you're really worried about your sanity in secret might even trigger more attacks.

- **Know that it's not a disease.** Realize the

ATTACKING/ C3

onstage 2nyt

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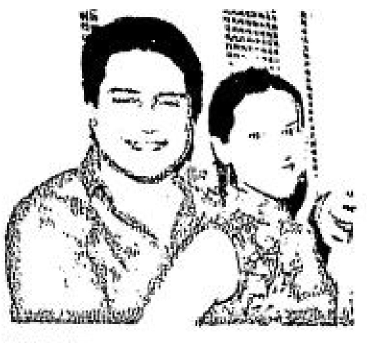
IT'S called love! Raymart Santiago and Claudine Barretto

CHAMPAGNE Morales and southern gent Vincent Consolacion

TOMCATS on the loose. Atom Henares and "free again" Manolet Dario

V-SWINGS. Kath Ekstein and Chito Melo

JUST PALS. Piolo Pascual and Technomarine babe Mia Florencio Nuvo-ing it


MIGUEL Zubiri with his lady love Audrey Tan

Gliding on Greenbelt lane

THE GANG of three dudes. Troy Montero with Keempee de Leon and JM Rodriguez partying at Nuvo

THREE'S a party. Richie Santos with Angelique Villaraza and Ipe Cruz

NIGHT out for Rave Manzano with Mia Reyes and Dondi Vernao

CHESKA Laurel, Djila Weinbrener and super pal Rosanna

THREE stunning angels. VJ Anna Shier, Rosario Herrera and Charlie's secret Angel

RAGE followers. Joyce Aragon with Christy and Jorge Bernasconi

THE GANG of V. Hotshot contractor Rene Banzon with Rea Gomez, Fran Ribano and Buboy Garovillo

TOMCATS at Temple. Boo Kyler, Erik Cua and TJ Manotoc

GUEST spinner of the night designer Rhett Eala and columnist Donnie Ramirez

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max

DO you notice the daily horrendous bumper-to-bumber traffic around the Greenbelt 2 and 3 area, especially on weekends? It's enough to freak anyone out!

But this has not stopped the gourmand lovers and partying bar animals from flocking in every time.

Last time I was there, Kai was packed table to table, with its tempura oysters and lamb shanks being lapped up and drowned with, mmm, cold, cold saki and the place's famous watermelon vodka concoction.

Next-door neighbor Restaurant 12 was sizzling with early diners, so as not to lose their tables when the real night drinking owls arrive in tidal force around 12 midnight.

Attractive **Rikki Kwek**, the super in-demand ABS-CBN newscaster, was having a real good time partying and circulating endlessly with the good, bad and beautiful at 12.

Her pals say it's her last hurrah, since this talented babe is giving it all up and getting ready to enter the Order of the Pink Sisters and devote the rest of her beautiful life to God!

At the entrance, a young gent was asked to please put on a more proper attire the next time he went partying at 12. His pal apparently then told the owner that the guy was the son of a well-known high-ranking politician.

"Yes, he may be the son, but he is not his father," said the owner. End of argument, *palanggas*.

Sugi, the champion of Japanese restos, is full, full, full all week long, but once dinner servings are over, the place dims its lights for the night.

Around the corner, Nuvo had its usual set of diners and boozers at the bar. Beautiful faces, too—lovers **Juan Elizalde** and **Bianca Araneta**, **Troy Montero**, **Mico Palanca** and **Victor Neri**.

And who were those two babes who were practically throwing their bodies at macho boys?

The big boys cruising at the bar included Asian Spirit's **Noel Oñate**, businessman **Francis de Borja**, Liberty Communications' **Raymond Moreno**, Chemphil's **Tony Garcia**, gentleman for all seasons **Babes Romualdez**, construction magnate **Philip Cruz**, **Dennis Padilla** with his wife **Marjorie Barretto**, plus others like them too beautiful to mention, *palanggas*.

Making a grand exit was starmaker and in-demand manager **Joji Dingcong**, who missed a step as he came down from the second floor. He landed on his butt with his arms raised high, but holding his drink and not spilling a drop of vodka. The crowd erupted into loud cheers and applause.

Pepato was also full with hot name-droppables—in other words, the real heavy-duty spenders who go ga-ga over **Margarita Fores'** expensive Italian cooking.

On any given day, it's no surprise if you rub elbows here with Presidential adviser on international competitiveness **Bobby Romulo** and his wife **Olivia Montinola**; **Susan Reyes** and architect **Conrad Onglao**; **Raul Manzano**, cardiologist Dr. **Randy Francisco** and his wife **Irene Martel** of Philippine Tatler and Harrison Plaza; Trade Secretary **Mar Roxas**, exotic beauty **Maureen Santiago**, Cinderella's wonder woman **Therese Coronel** with husband, hotshot **Al Santos**, alabaster beauty **Frannie Jacinto**, plus soooo many others.

A hop and a skip away is Temple Bar, also swinging nightly, but with the more beer-drinking pack, although the food it serves is good.

Then we have the popular Masas Restaurant. Ah, here the old-and-new menu is to die for, where you have excellently prepared meals and where you can hang around with your pals while you watch the parade of personalities breezing by.

At Glorietta 3, Havana represents a taste of Cuba. The Latin beat goes on and on, with dancing to boot if you're up to it. The food is *muy Cubano natural!*

A floor up, and you'll find Ice, the one and only super vodka bar in town where you'll find unlimited types of vodkas from all over the world. Always a fun place to booze around and listen to great sounds, and incidentally, it's where you'll find mega-entrepreneur **Choy Cojuangco** hanging out with his pals.

Further down on the same floor is Absinthe, the drink and the bar to make you forget your troubles (if you have any), while you listen to the super sounds being spun by different DJs every night.

For live bands and guest singers, it's a toss-up between Merk's and Tavern on the Square. But on weekends, be ready to queue to get in.

For less traffic and easier parking, **Louie** Ysmael's V is still the place to go.

Friday night saw international businessman, *tres charmant* **Henrie Muzzarelli**, having a great time at the bar of V where he was being chatted up by two pretty young things.

"Do you go out a lot now?" *moi* asked him. He replied, "Every night! I'm really having a great time now since I've been free, and enjoying every minute of it."

That I could see, dahlings.

In another corner, a good-looking businessman almost got into a fight with one of the guests who was trying to flirt with his gorgeous girlfriend. Thanks to the super bouncers of V and some cooler heads who came to the rescue, a big scene was avoided.

And there was this stunning looker wearing a low, low *decolletage* that showed off her best assets. A well-known socialite was not amused at all when she caught the girl shaking hands with her lover, a popular group singer.

Oh well, when you're handsome and high-profile, these encounters do happen, *palanggas*.

At **Marcel Crespo's** Wherelse, you'll definitely see and rub elbows with personalities from all sectors of our society and party on till the sun is shining outside.

Moi has heard that Dream Bar also has a fun crowd on Friday, but haven't checked it out yet, so can't say much about it.

By the way, on July 17, Nuvo will be celebrating its first anniversary, and so will V on Aug. 8. As you all know, *palanggas*, Venezia is still hard to beat, going on its sixth year. V's first lady, **Cecile Chang Ysmael**, is doing an all-black, strictly invitational affair for the anniv party.

Rage rocks Dish

It was a hip and nostalgic happening and a party like no other.

Dish rocked at earthquake intensity once again as it celebrated the relaunch of the truly awesome, fantastic Rage band, *palanggas*.

The band's electrifying sounds drew in the '80s and today's fanatics as they belted out great '80s tunes.

Seen dancing like forever were **Carmela Isabela**, **Rona Macasaet** and **Sandra Gordon Recto**, among many others.

With Rage raging on, the crowd just had to rock on with them. There was Ms Pilates herself swinging along with the mob, **Cheska W. Laurel** with her sister **Djila Weinbrener**; **Joyce Aragon**, **Gil Aquino** and his very attractive wife **Maryrose**; beautiful twosome—back again into each other's arms after a breathing period—southern hunk **Monsour del Rosario** and stunning beauty **Joy Zapanta**; super-fun persona **Jeena Llamas Lopez**, **Faye** and **Baby Laurel**, **Chiqui Tan** of Premier Wine and Spirits and Restaurant 12's popular couple, **Elbert Cuenca** and his wife **Liza Ilarde**.

It was a blast as well for **Kimi Cojuangco**, with her sister **Christy Schulze B** and her realtor husband **Jorge Bernasconi**, Dish diehard **Louie**, **Cynthia** and **Joni Chuidian**, **Angie Hager**, and soon-to-say-their-"I do's" **Javi Berenguer** and **Lexi Schulze**.

The thumping anthem "I'm so excited" sent lovey-dovies **Conrad Onglao** and **Susan Reyes** to the dance floor. Joining them were Louie and Cecile Ysmael, **Jenni Epperson**, **Pepper Teehankee**, Joji Dingcong, good-looking **Ipe Cruz** with **JM Rodriguez**, **GP Reyes**, **Rikki** and **Beng Dee**, **Matess Salvador** and **Chelong Larauri**.

Afterwards, super-surprise spinner and top designer **Rhett Eala** had the rockers staying on and on, *palanggas*.

But the brightest star of all was young beauty **Ciara Sotto**, who celebrated her birthday at Dish with her parents, super-fun personalities Sen. **Tito Sotto** and **Helen Gamboa**, and brother **Gian** and sisters **Apple** and **Lala** with her husband **Vincent de Leon**, plus cousins **Maru** and **Oyo Boy Sotto**.

Completing the picture was her true love **John Lloyd Cruz**, who made quite an entrance with a bouquet of roses in his arms and a *tres* special "for your eyes only" gift for his lady love.

Check out Rage every Thursday at Dish. Catch you around. Stay cool, *palanggas*.

With its profusion of 'in' places, Makati's classy mall has become the destination of choice for Cosmo-Manille's beautiful people

THE BEAUTIFUL Sottos. Sen. Tito Sotto, moi, birthday babe and alabaster beauty Ciara Sotto and Helen Gamboa

CAMILLE Pratts, Francis Moreno, John Pratts and KC Concepcion

TEMPLE owners Mariano and Nancy Cua

RINA Marquez of Temple Bar and Restaurant

BETTINA Lopez Osmeña

THE FASHION pack doing the Temple scene. Designers Randy Ortiz and Tonichi Nocom, Chechel Joson and John Estrada

MARISSA Buñag of Rage Band belts it while Leah Puyat rocks and swings to the beat of "I'm so excited."

DOUBLE celebrators at Pepato. Photographer Alex Van Hagen and socialite Frannie Jacinto

ROCKING IT! Renee Araneta with Baby Laurel and Michael Seligman

ABSINTHE owners Christine San Diego, Paolo Abaya, Candy Mendoza, Heidi Ng, Ralph Joseph, Gemma Estrella and Johnny Francisco

CINDERELLA'S Therese Coronel Santos and Susan Reyes

TUCCI Reyes, Jeena Lopez, Rovilson Fernandez, Tetet Lara and Jenni Epperson

THE '80s gang. Louie and Cecile Ysmael, EJ Litton and Kimi Cojuangco

Attacking panic attacks

From page C1

difference between a panic attack and a panic disorder. In fact, there's a huge chance that your first panic attack will be your last.

• **Get over the shrink stigma.** Unfortunately, we live in a society that still does not embrace the need for therapists. A lot of people shy away from seeking professional help in fear of having their sanity questioned.

But there are some cases when seeking treatment is essential. This is one of them.

• **Analyze yourself.** During your session with your psychologist, there is a huge chance s/he will ask you, "Why do you think this happened?" In my case, the attack took place during a period of transition. I had just graduated, a lot of things were going on at work, I had experienced a very traumatic plane ride a few weeks before, my mom just got out of the hospital, and the previous night, I had an argument with a friend.

Needless to say, I was under a lot of stress. Dr. Root says most patients shed important light on the possible triggers of their attack.

It makes sense; after all, you know yourself best. Be prepared.

• **Arm yourself with important information about panic and anxiety.** Knowledge is power. Online resources such as www.anxietypanic.com, www.panicattack-help.com, www.anxietycentre.com, www.algy.com/anxiety/anxiety.html and www.apa.org/pubinfo/panic.html offer a lot of helpful facts. These websites also offer tips on dealing with anxiety and getting better.

Aside from "The Panic Attack Recovery Book," I also found "Overcoming Anxiety for Dummies" insightful.

• **Do not let your panic attacks rule your life.** Some people start avoiding doing certain things or going to certain places in fear of triggering another attack. This is a major don't.

Avoid limiting your lifestyle, as this behavior may soon lead to agoraphobia. Literally, agoraphobia means "fear of open spaces," but is actually developed when a person begins to avoid spaces or situations associated with anxiety.

These situations include things that most people take for granted—driving, shopping, crowded places, traveling, standing in line, being alone, attending meetings and social gatherings.

• **Don't use it as an excuse.** A panic attack or even a panic disorder is not a reason for you to stop living your life. Just like the introduction to "Overcoming Anxiety for Dummies" says, "So today's world gives us plenty to worry about, and it always has. But just as we don't want to become victims of terror, we can't let ourselves become victims of anxiety."

Strive for a normal life, panic or no panic.

• **Focus on other things.** Do not let one attack consume you. Taking up a new interest or hobby will not only help you take your mind off your anxiety, it will also be a tool for relaxation.

• **Realize that you're not alone.** At first, especially during an attack, you might feel completely alone and that no one would understand what you're going through.

That is a misconception. There are countless people out there who have gone through and are going through the same thing you experienced. It might help for you to reach out and connect with these people.

There are support groups online for victims of anxiety attacks. The groups found in these websites (www.panicsupport4u.com/, dmoz.org/Health/Mental_Health/Disorders/Anxiety/Support_Groups/, www.livejournal.com/community/anxiety-panic/, groups.yahoo.com/group/Agoraphobia_Panic_Anxiety/, groups.yahoo.com/group/Panic-Anxiety-Support/) are just a few examples.

• **Don't shut people out.** Although they may not be able to relate exactly to what you're experiencing, do not turn your back on your family and friends.

Some people suffering from panic worry about what people will think when they have an attack in their presence and, as a result, start avoiding being with them.

But the truth is, being around someone you trust can help you handle things better. A few weeks after my panic attack, I went to Puerto Galera. The boat ride back to Batangas was very traumatic because of a weather disturbance. The boat was lurching, the other passengers had their hands clenched and were praying, there were even some who had started throwing up.

I felt the onset of an attack coming on, my chest had tightened and I couldn't breathe. It was a good thing my friend, who was beside me, saw what was happening. He helped me calm down.

• **Write in your diary.** Keeping a journal of your feelings, emotions and state of mind may help you keep track of your stress levels. It is also an effective outlet and a good way to stop yourself from bottling emotions that may accumulate and burst later on.

• **Think twice before popping pills.** While some cases really do require medication, there are a lot of other ways to battle panic and anxiety without having to resort to pill-popping. Ask your therapist for programs that you can try before you decide to take the prescription plunge.

• **Filter your information intake.** As stress can evidently contribute to the possibilities of a panic attack, it would be helpful for you to avoid things that may elevate your level of stress.

Dr. Root advised me to momentarily put a halt to my obsession with true crime and forensics. I have stopped reading about these subjects, and my "chronic level of stress" seems to have dropped dramatically. If watching the news makes you nervous about going out, avoid it for a while.

• **Do breathing exercises.** One good way to deal with an attack is by breathing right.

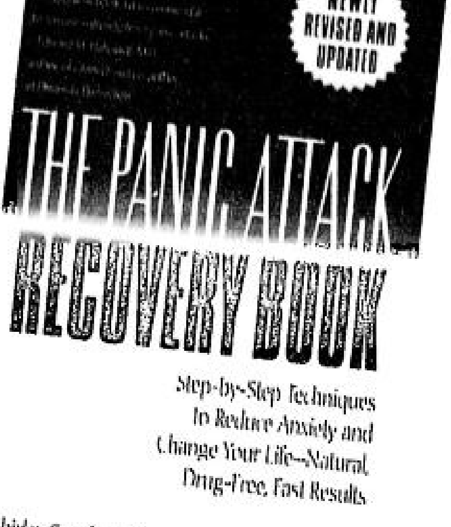
When you are in the middle of a panic attack, you have two tendencies—you either take deep breaths or quick shallow breaths.

Doing either will actually prolong the attack. When you take quick shallow breaths from your chest, you activate your sympathetic nervous system, bringing yourself closer to hyperventilation.

Practice abdominal breathing, or what they call "belly puffs." Try to breathe normally and focus on the relaxing feeling you get when you exhale.

• **Relax.** Relaxation is key. According to "The Panic Attack Recovery Book," it's a skill. Set aside at least half an hour every day to practice relaxation.

• **Reason with yourself.** Appeal to your logical side. Because sometimes we get so stubborn that we don't even listen to ourselves, it might help if you write things down.

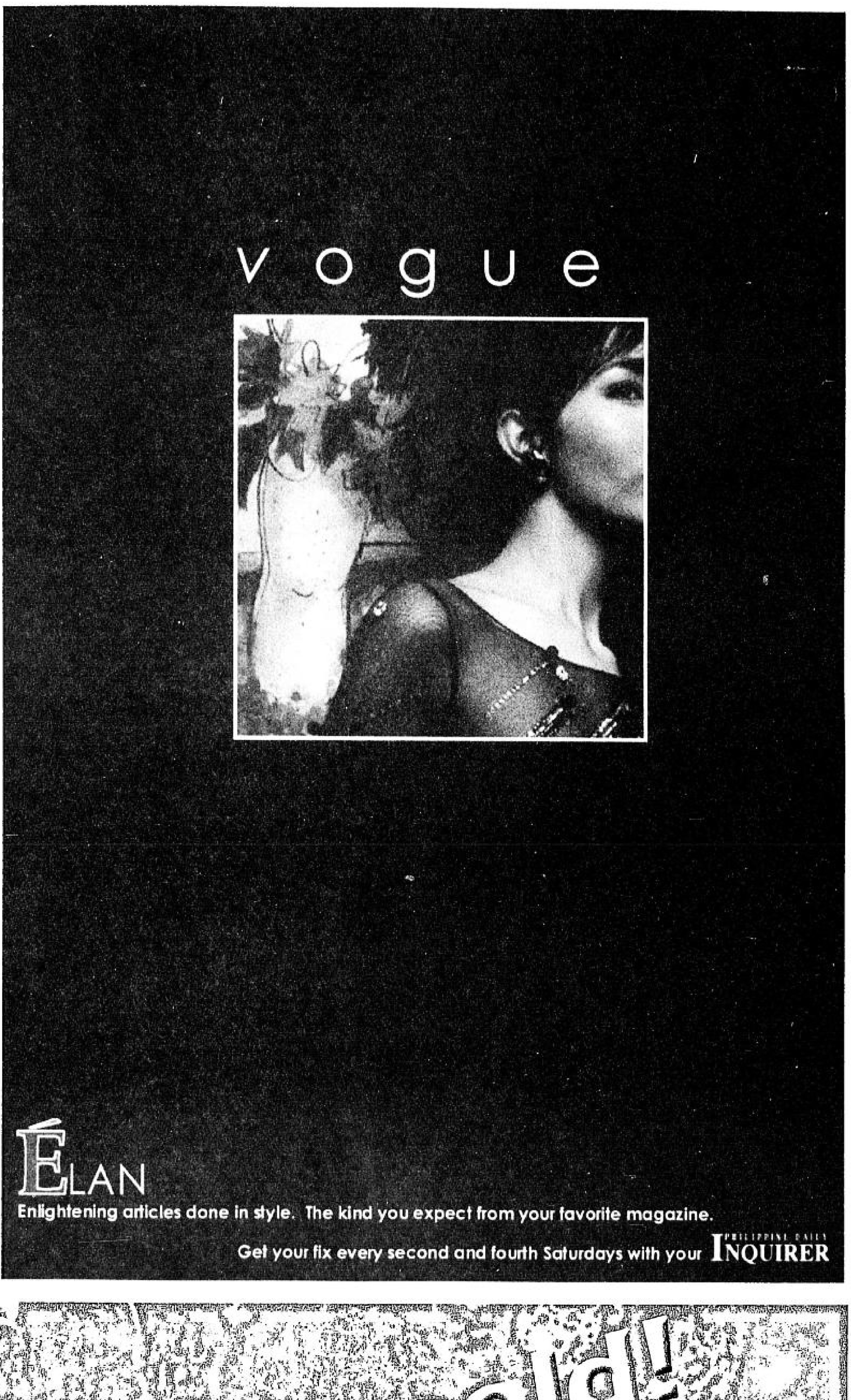

NEWLY REVISED AND UPDATED
THE PANIC ATTACK RECOVERY BOOK
Step-by-Step Techniques to Reduce Anxiety and Change Your Life—Natural, Drug-Free, Fast Results
Shirley Swede and Seymour Sheppard Jaffe MD

For example, if you're about to ride a plane and you're terrified of having a panic attack, write down little notes on pieces of paper. "Air travel is relatively safe." "Air travel is safer than land travel."

This method may seem silly, but it works for a lot of people.

•**Lastly, a balanced lifestyle is essential.** Exercise and a good diet will help your body deal with stress and anxiety more effectively.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



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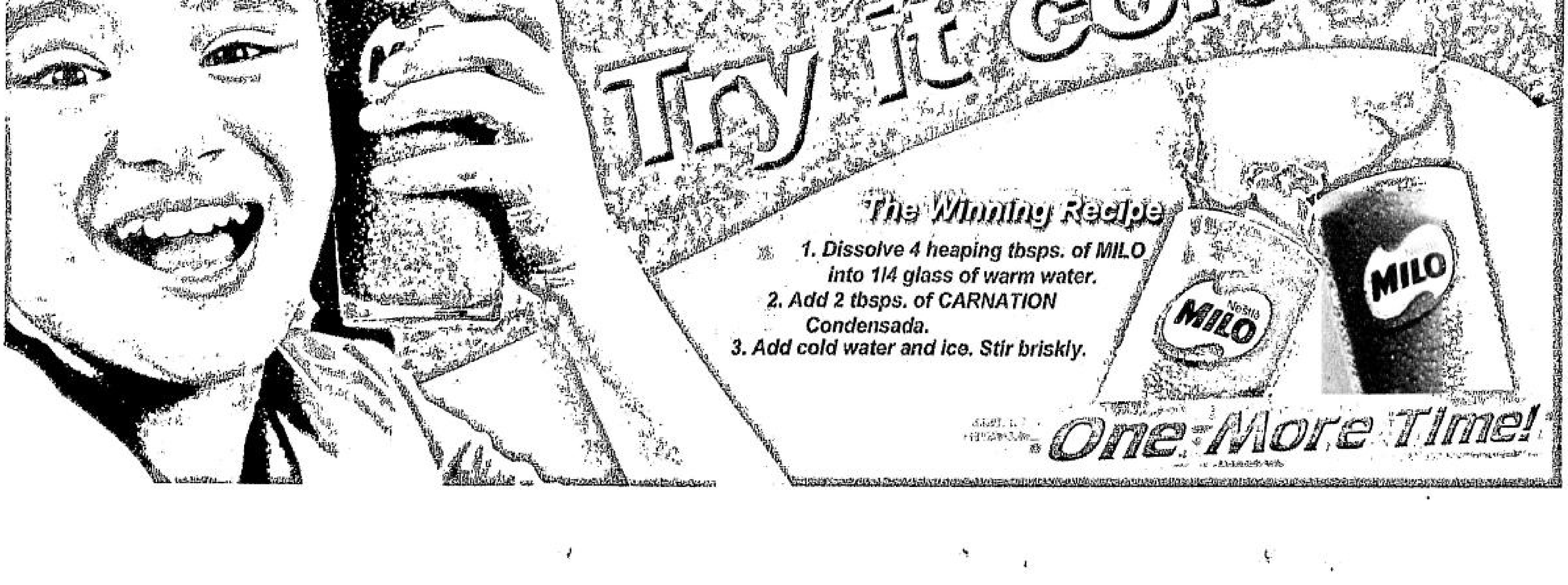


The Winning Recipe
1. Dissolve 4 heaping tbsps. of MILO into 1/4 glass of warm water.
2. Add 2 tbsps. of CARNATION Condensada.
3. Add cold water and ice. Stir briskly.

Seeing the soul of things

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ON THE MORNING of Sept. 11, 2000, I went to see my dentist to have my upper right molar examined. A quick look uncovered no cavities. He therefore suggested an x-ray exam, asking me to transfer to another chair at the back with the x-ray machine.

Once I was seated, the dentist instructed me to hold a dental plate to my palate. I did so, but before long, I had the overwhelming urge to throw up.

He said I might have hit a sensitive part, but I suspected something else. I asked him about the previous occupant of that chair. What was his or her emotional state?

After a few moments my dentist said, "There was a lady seated there before you, but she looked fine to me." Then, after a few more seconds he added, "But last Saturday (Sept. 9) there was a man sitting there. He was very upset because he had just figured in an automobile accident, and he was traumatized by the incident."

"That must be it!" I exclaimed. It reminded me of similar incidents in the past. I told him, for instance, about the times I'd go to a movie theater, take a seat, and immediately feel uncomfortable or uneasy.

So I would transfer to another seat. I understood that all this was happening because of my great sensitivity to psychic energy: I could somehow pick up the psychic imprint of whoever or whatever had preceded me, even if I had no conscious knowledge of this person or thing.

Another incident happened while I was still working in a multinational company. I had just entered the room of my boss when he asked me to have a seat. As soon as I did, there was that sensation of wanting to throw up, akin to what happened in the dentist's clinic.

I felt so much heaviness and negativity that I transferred to the sofa near the door of the room. My boss, who was still talking, stopped, and curiously asked me why I transferred. I told him I felt uncomfortable in that chair. I felt that the one who occupied it was emotionally upset and very angry.

My boss was astounded. He told me that the man who was seated there just a few minutes before me was an executive of a subsidiary firm who had just been fired, and was therefore filled with resentment, arguing his case strongly.

Akashic record

Every time we touch or come in contact with an object, we leave our imprint on that object. This is what the Easterns call the Akashic record. Christianity calls it the Book of Life.

Upon death, souls are believed to be greeted at the gates of heaven by St. Peter, who opens the Book of Life to check on everything these souls had done in their lifetimes.

The Book of Life, where everything that ever happened to a soul is written, is the Christian equivalent of the Akashic record in Eastern metaphysics. What a sensitive being thus picks up from any object comes from the Akashic record of that object.

A knife that is used as an instrument for murder would carry a stronger vibration of the crime than one used mainly for cutting vegetables.

The ability to read the energy of such an object just by coming into physical contact with it is called "psychometry," which was discovered in the 1800s by Joseph Rhodes Buchanan.

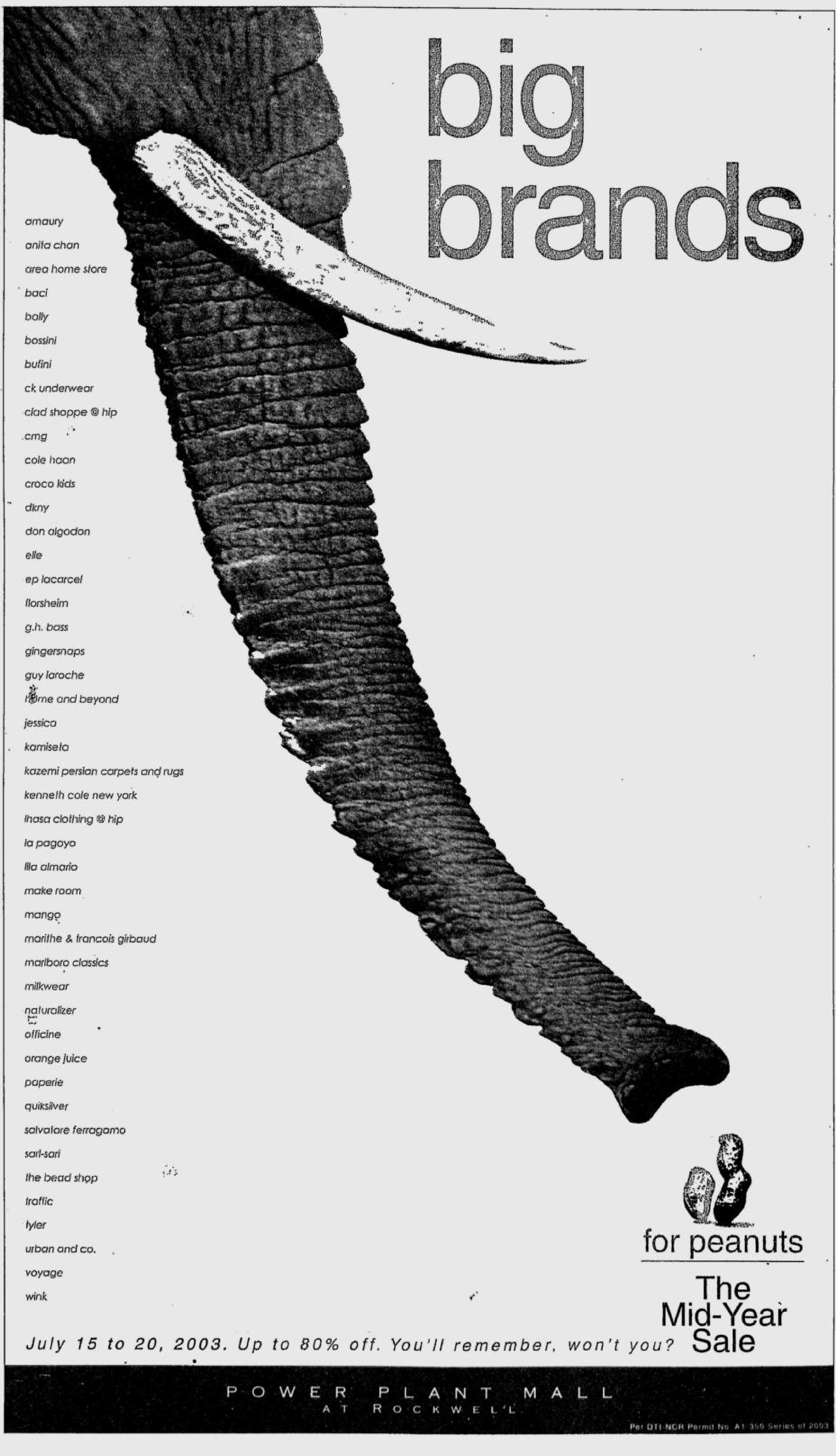
Later, the geologist William Denton verified the findings of Dr. Buchanan and reported this in his book, "The Soul of Things."

Because everything we come in contact with is recorded in the Akashic record, there is no secret that can be hidden.

This is probably why Christ said that, "Everything hidden will be made known."

Psychometry, a form of psychic perception or ability, makes this possible.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.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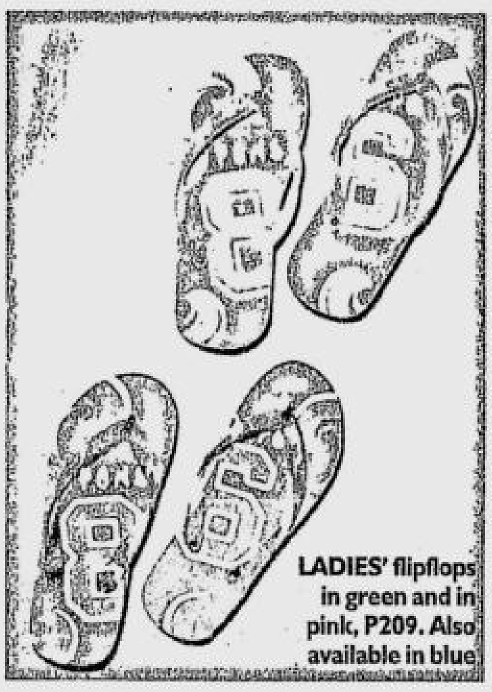


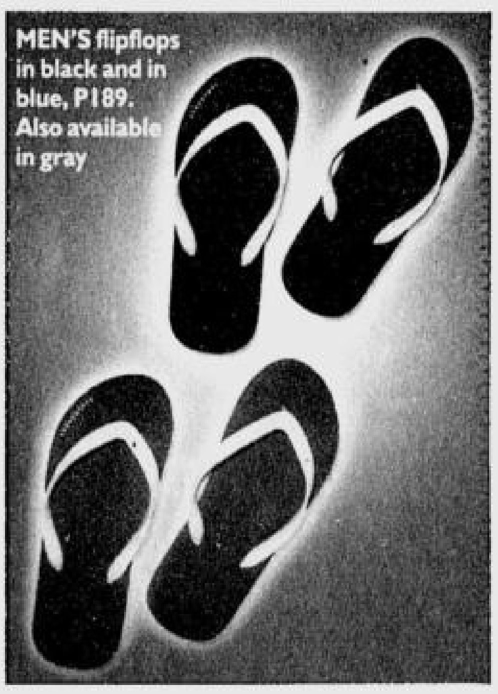
LADIES' flipflops in green and in pink, P209. Also available in blue

How to pamper your feet

YOUR feet are the most neglected part of your body, but they don't have to remain so. Here are some tips on how to take care of your feet from Penshoppe, makers of hip flipflops:

- Give your feet a spa by soaking them in warm water and soap for about five minutes in your bath.
- Use loofah to gently remove dead skin from your feet. If you have a moderate amount of callus, use a pumice stone.
- Pat your feet dry and apply a liberal coat of moisturizing cream.

Penshoppe flipflops are available at Penshoppe boutiques nationwide. Visit www.penshoppe.com.



MEN'S flipflops in black and in blue, P189. Also available in gray

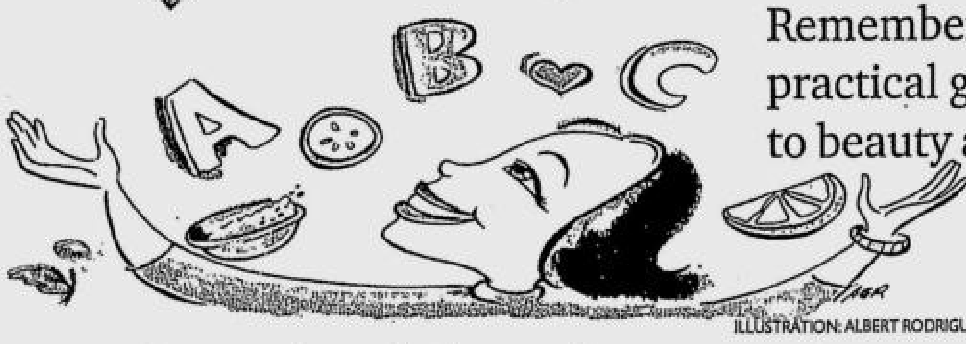
De-stress with gentle yoga

ANANDA Marga offers yoga courses at its Maamo Yoga Center in Sikatuna Village, QC.

Classes follow the Tantra Yoga system, the world's oldest and most comprehensive, dating back 7,000 years. Yoga techniques include deep relaxation, deep breathing, yogic dance, yoga asanas (exercises), chanting and self-massage. The classes emphasize slow, gentle movements of the body combined with meditation and mental imagery to enhance relaxation and stress release. Because of its gentle, subtle style, yoga injuries are unheard of in Ananda Marga's non-competitive approach.

Ananda Marga yoga teachers have trained at the International Yoga Training Center in Varanasi, India. Classes are held daily at 9-10:30 a.m. or 6-7 p.m. at 46 Maamo St., Sikatuna Village. Call yoga instructor Dada Surya at 434-6617 and 0919-6548240 or e-mail info@maamoyoga.amps.org

Fitness LIFESTYLE



Remember this easy, practical guide to beauty and wellness

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A mind-body-spirit alphabet

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WHEN there are just too many rules to follow, too many regimens to choose from, the mind shuts off. But with an easy guide reminding you to remember, it's as simple as A, B, C.

Here then is a mind-body-spirit alphabet!

A—Apples and other fruits are good for the body (unless you have diet restrictions). "A" may also stand for "Acceptance," a state of mind that sees reality for what it is, and a state of heart that embraces that same reality with humility and love.

B—The best anti-stress vitamin is B. Great for the nerves (and nails and hair, too!).

C—The immune-system booster is vitamin C, and the best bone builder and strengthener is calcium. So take your non-fat calcium-enriched milk.

D—Discipline is the key to achieving your health goals (or any other goal for that matter). Detoxifying your system is a necessary step to achieving wellness. Get rid of the excesses in your life, from negative feelings to too much sugar, fat and salt.

E—Energy that the body requires comes from nutritious food. So mind what you eat. Vitamin E is an antioxidant that protects the heart and prevent you from aging faster.

F—Fresh fruits and veggies should top your grocery list. Fear, on the other hand, is the cause of many emotional and spiritual troubles.

G—Greet each new day with gusto and you will be surprised at how pleasantly it will turn out! The next time someone asks you how your day has been, answer "great!" instead of "okay".

H—Hypertensives may not be aware of the fact that stress is a major trigger of the illness.

I—For a quick eye-bag remedy, place an ice pack on your eyes for 5 seconds, in 10-second intervals. Repeat five times.

J—Jogging 20 minutes a day, 3 times a week is enough to maintain your heart's health.

K—Before you undergo an operation, you may want to look into the wound-healing and blood-clotting properties of Vitamin K.

L—Love is the greatest force on earth. Love yourself by caring about your physical, emotional and spiritual health.

M—The best medicine is laughter. Its feel-good effect on the body and state of mind is healing. Meditation is the practice of being still. Ten minutes twice a day should calm-center you.

N—Never curse someone else. Its rebound effect will only hurt you and not the person it was intended for.

O—Take your bowl of oatmeal each morning. It controls your cholesterol and gives you the fiber you need. Leftover or uncooked oats can be mixed with cold water, made into paste and applied on the face like a firming mask. Leave on for 7 minutes. Rinse.

P—Papaya has skin-whitening properties. Eat it every morning and apply the leftovers on your face to soften and whiten your skin. Leave on for 5-7 minutes. Rinse.

Q—Vitamin Q10 is an antioxidant that can slow down aging.

R—Relax. It is important to know when you need some relaxation. Too much work can only make you sick or deprive you of a better life.

S—Stress is the cause of most, if not all, sicknesses ailing people today. Review the stress factors in your life and try to eliminate them. In today's definition of stress, it is our resistance to a situation that causes distress. If we can manage our emotions, we can, by and large, control stress and minimize its damaging effects on our system.

T—Toxic sub-

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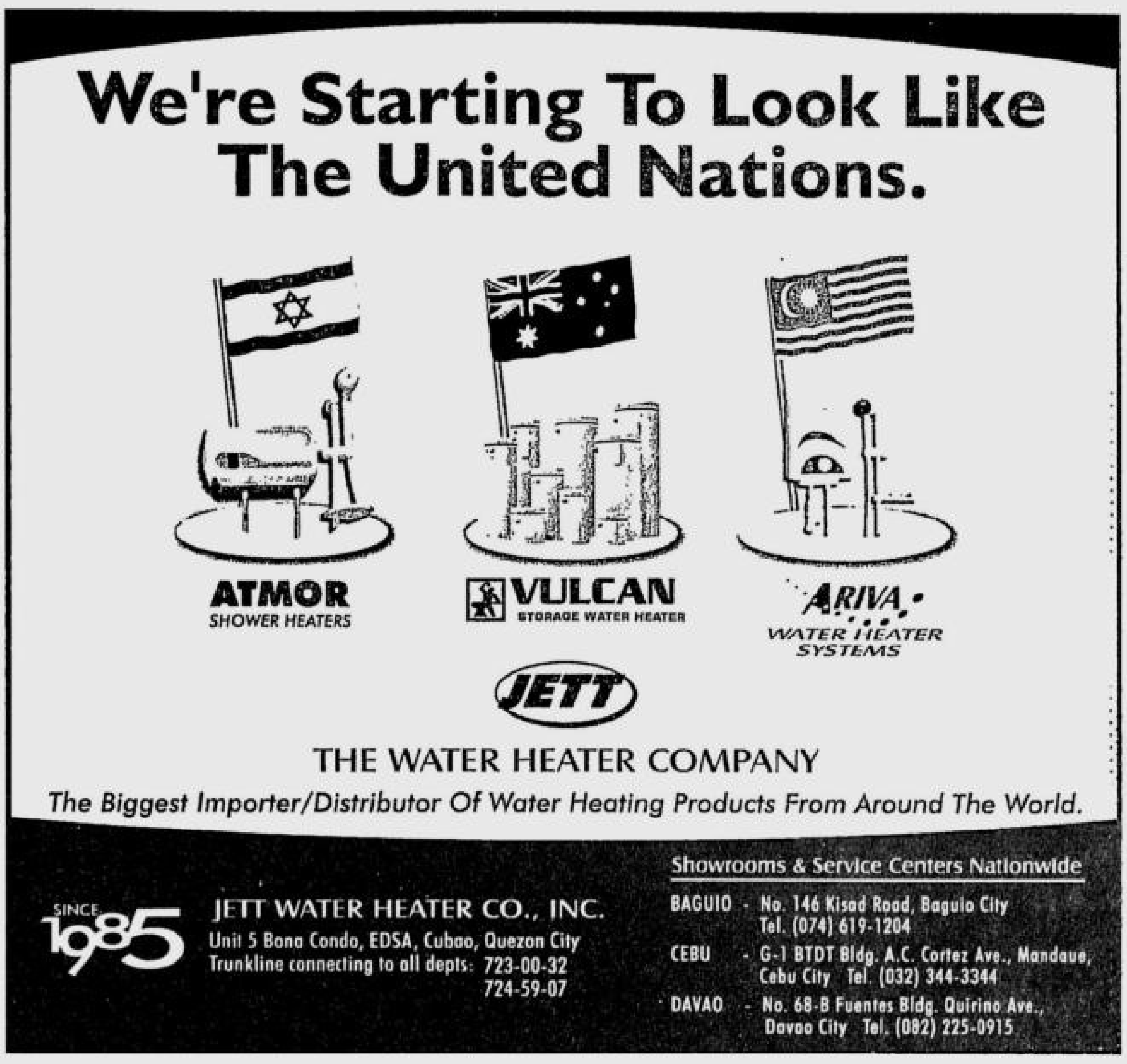
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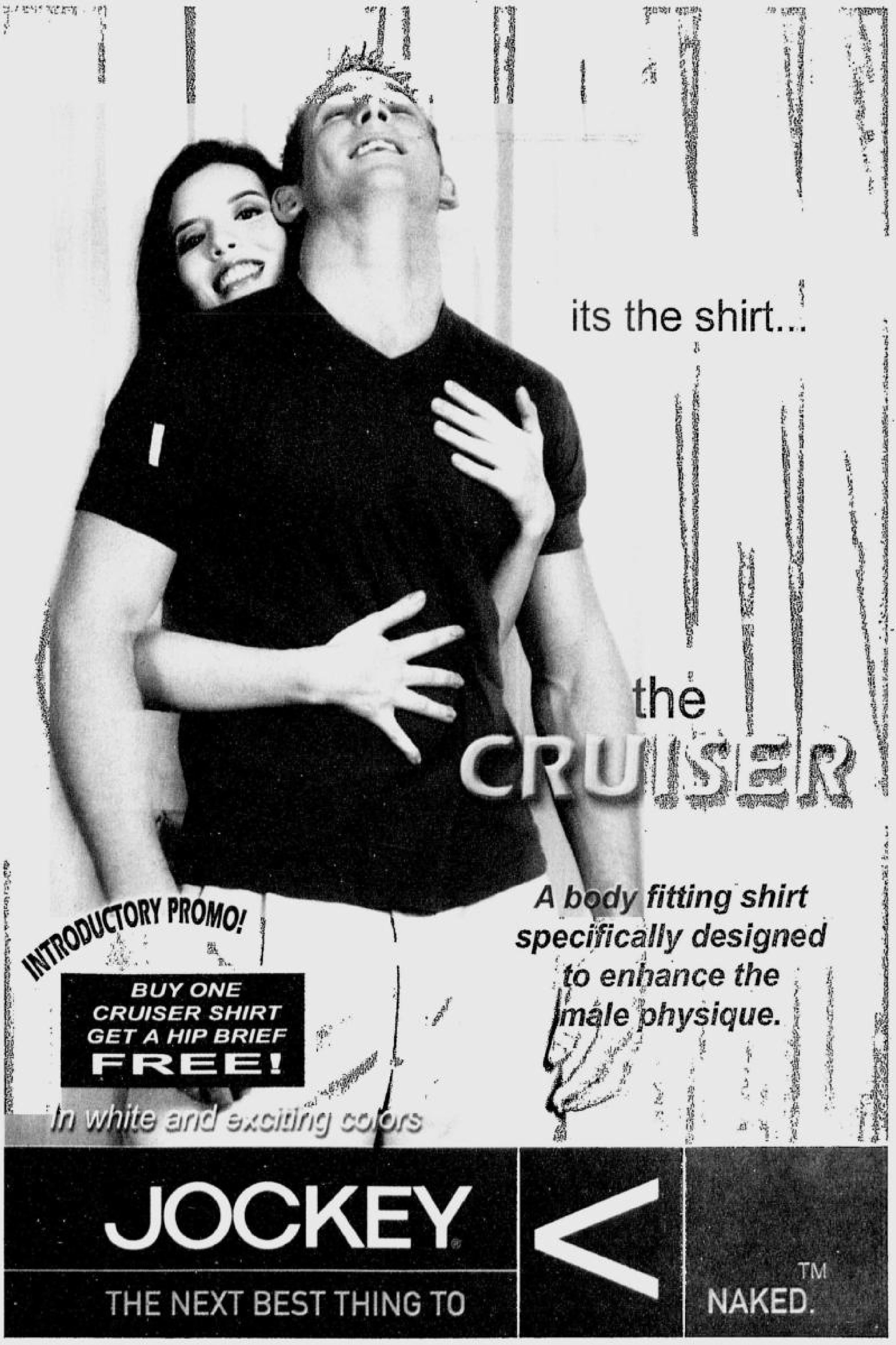
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Total approach to f

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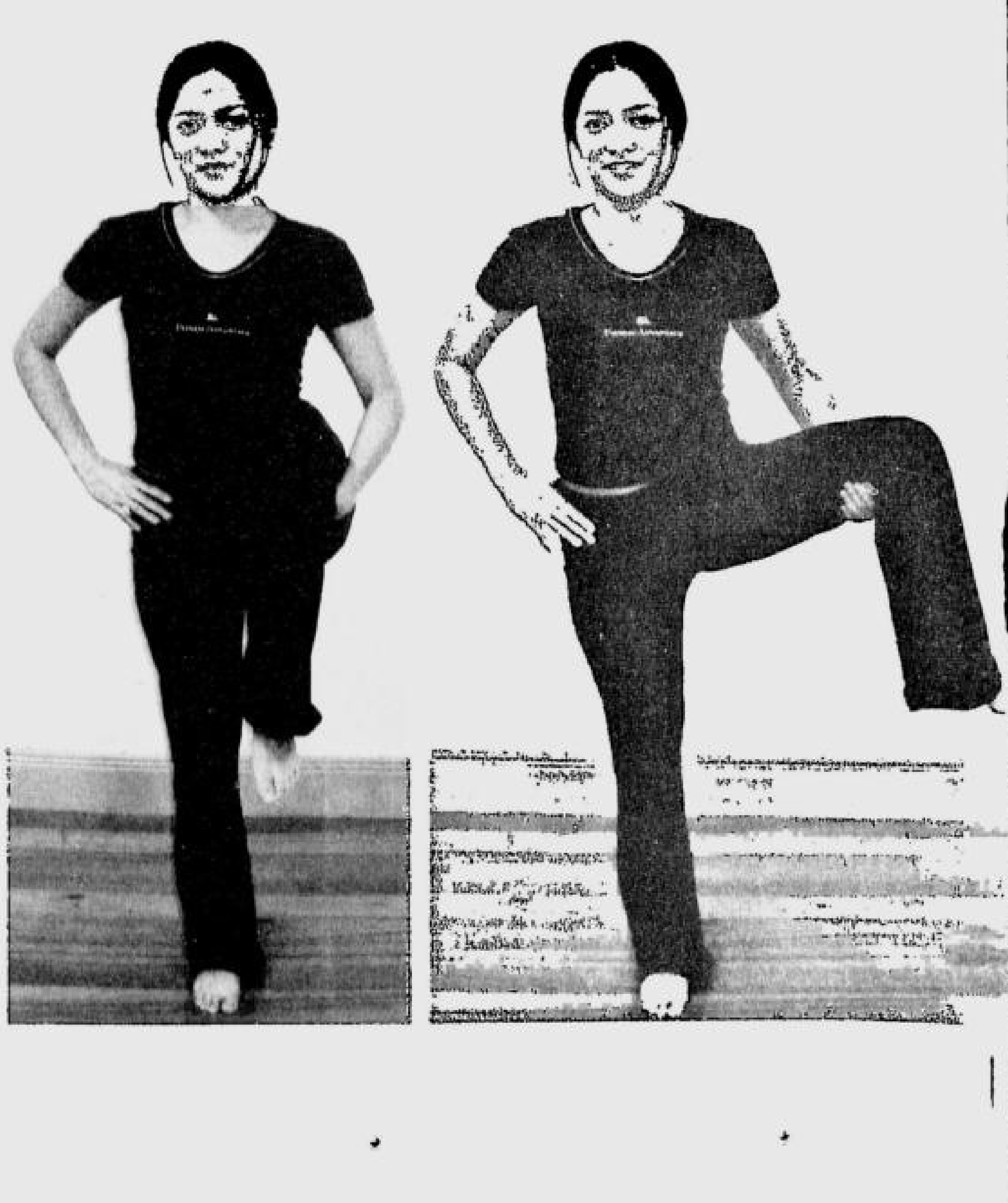

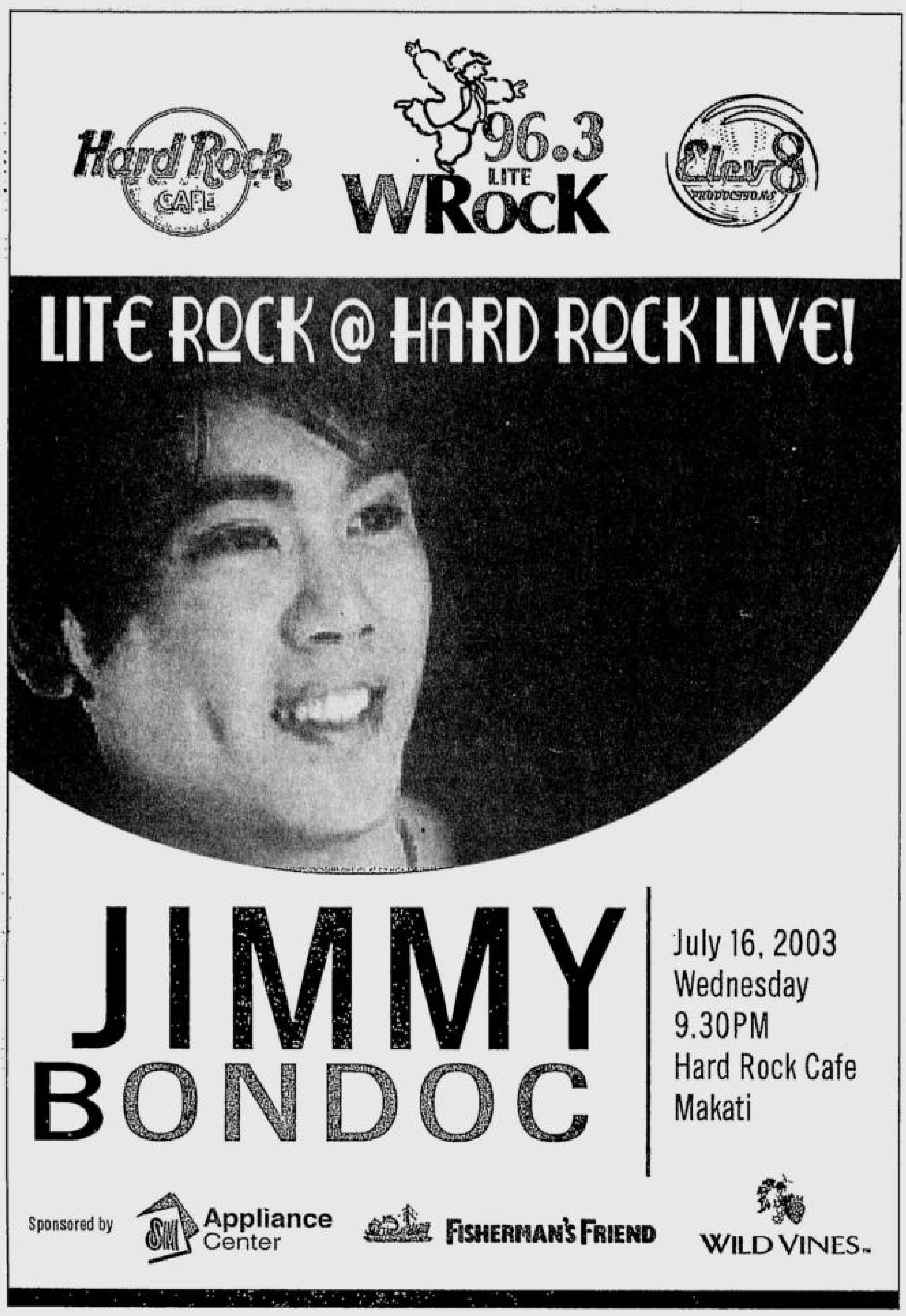

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
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Meet your MEDICard Team

Meet **Dr. Sherrie De Ocampo,** our accredited specialist based at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City. Doc Sherrie, who has been in the practice of her profession since 1998, specializes in the field of Gastroenterology. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took her residency training for her specialization at SLMC. Dr. Ocampo devotes most of her free time with her family but makes it a point to take time in enjoying her favorite sports, badminton and swimming. Members may visit her clinic for their needed consultations at Room 110, Mondays to Saturdays from 3 to 5 PM.

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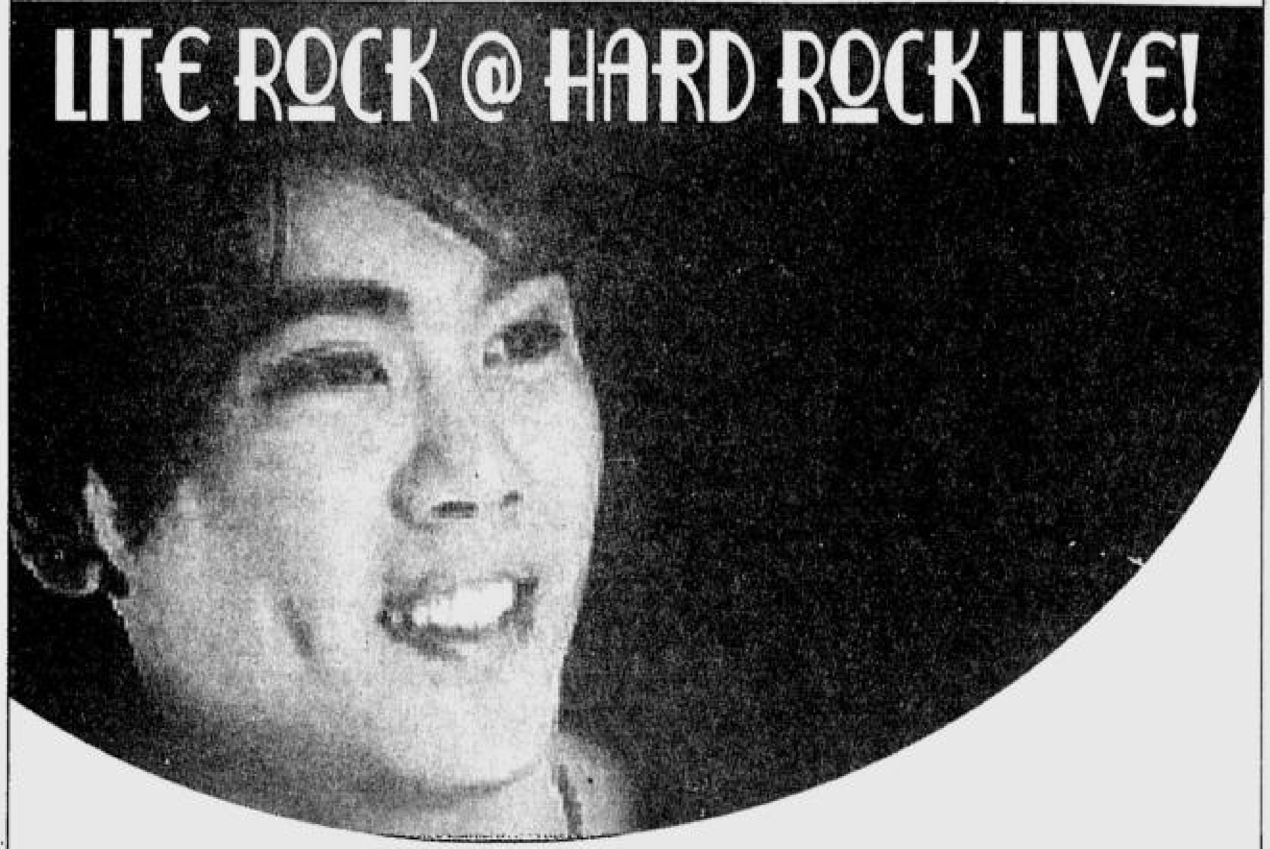

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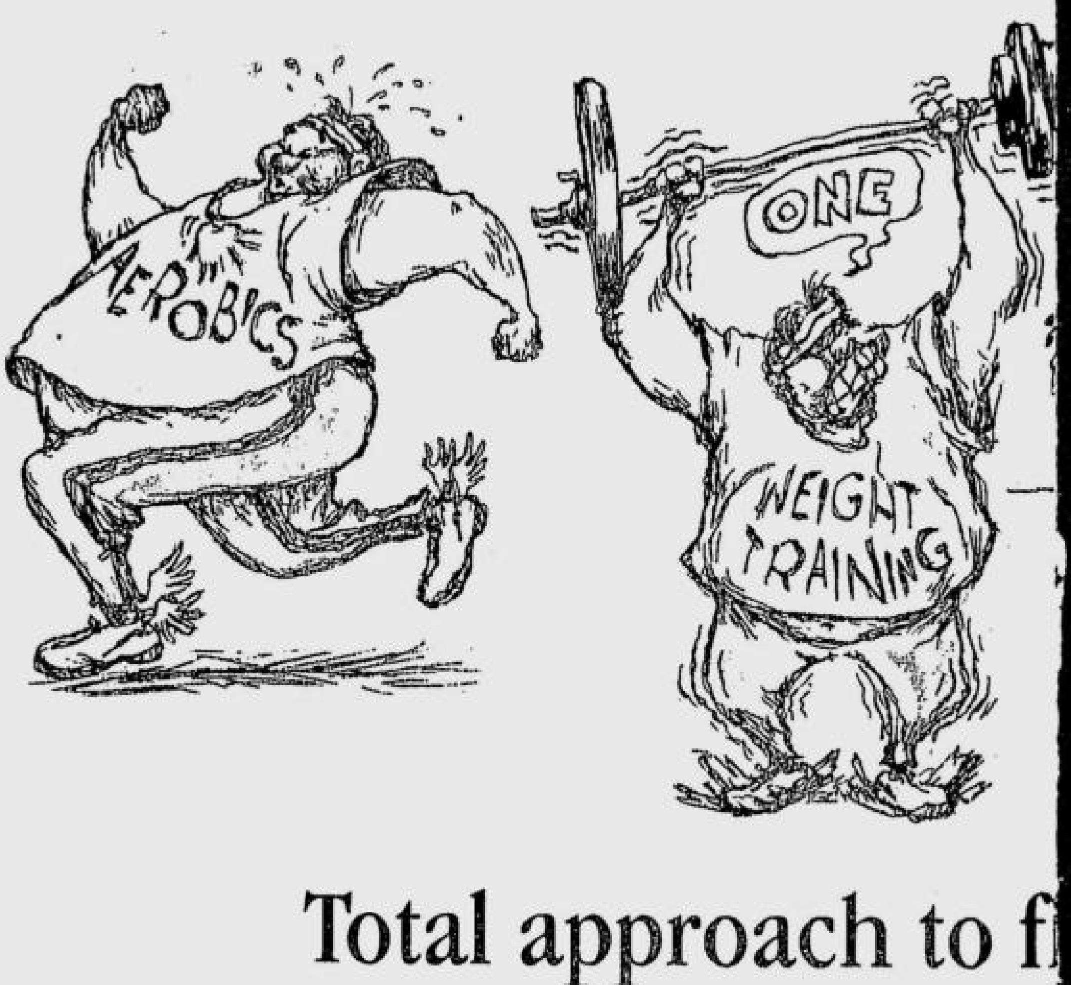

Total approach to f

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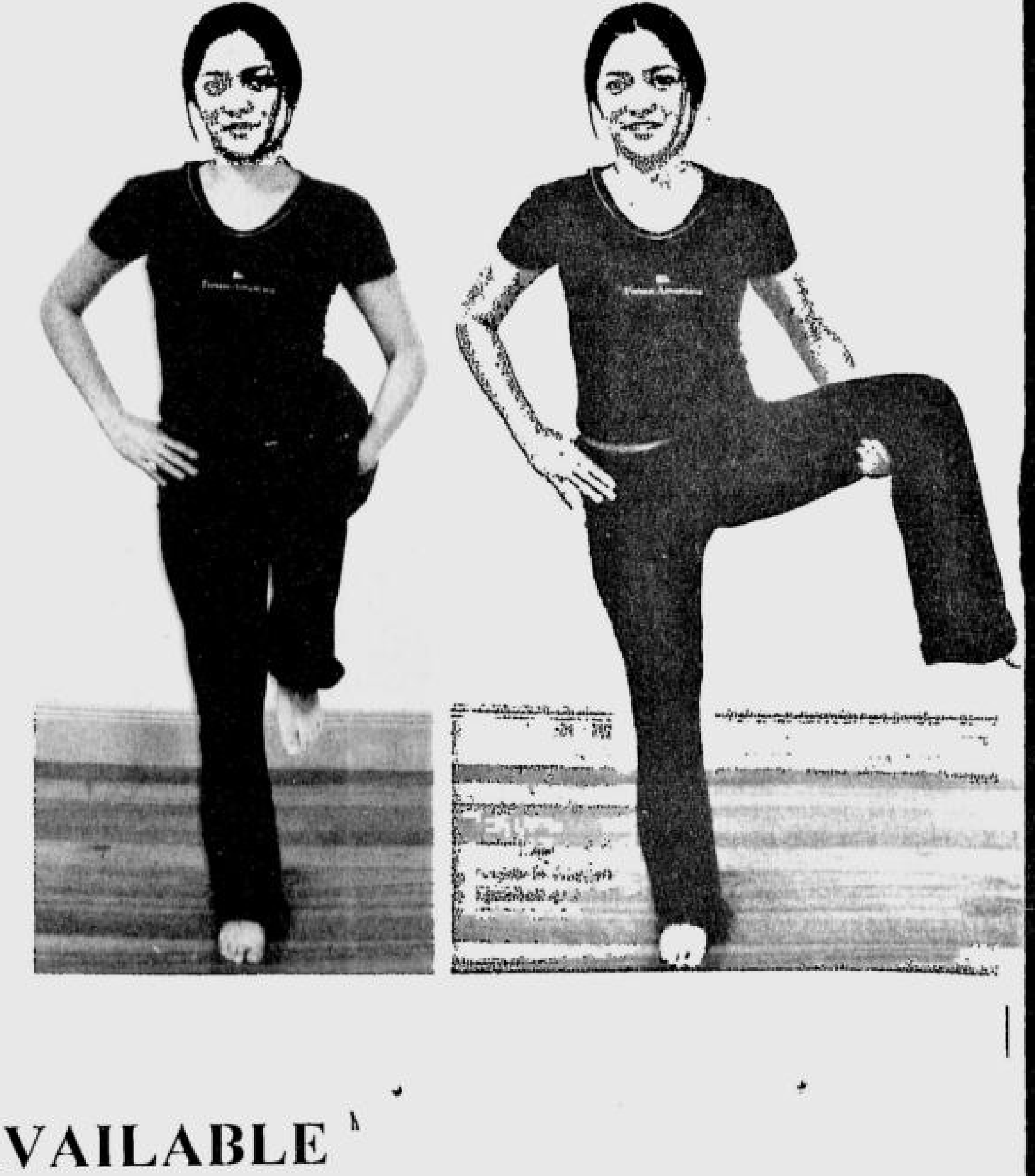

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SENSIBLE DIET
OFF LIMITS

ILLUSTRATION: GILBERT DAROY

lat abs

anced exercise program with excessive crunching can encourage a slouched posture.

Do your exercises slowly and with control so you really work the muscles and are not just jerking your head and shoulders. Remember that quality is better than quantity. Whenever someone tells me they can do 300 crunches a day, I am almost sure that they are doing it fast.

If you are aiming for a "six-pack" or the defined chiseled abdominals of a bodybuilder, be prepared to suffer. You need to have a low body fat percentage so very little fat is covering the muscles and you need to do intense abdominal exercises with weights, because the only way to get the "six-pack" or "pan de sal" look is to make the rectus abdominis and external obliques bulkier, in the same manner that you do dumbbell curls with weights to make your biceps bigger and more prominent.

This is an unrealistic goal for most women because females tend to have rounded bellies even when they are very slim.

Skin tone

Loose and stretched skin contributes to the look of a big belly although there may not be all that much fat in the abdomen. No amount of exercise or proper eating will restore skin that is already stretched. The only solution would be a surgical procedure that is nicknamed a "tummy tuck."

Since loose skin is not life-threatening, a tummy tuck is elective surgery. If you decide to undergo the operation, make sure you know what you are getting yourself into by consulting a qualified surgeon and then making an informed decision.

Bloating and gas

Many people don't realize that the content of their stomach and intestines also plays a role in how flat the abdomen will look. Gas in the intestines from food like beans or cabbage will distend the abdomen. Carbonated soft drinks are big culprits here. Not only will you have gas, but the high sugar content retains liquid longer in the stomach. Besides, additional calories are no help in keeping your "gas tank" as small as possible.

Chewing gum all day long and excessive talking while eating are other ways to introduce gas into your intestines. According to acquaintances of Marilyn Monroe, she would use enemas and suppositories before going to a party to empty her intestines of all its contents so her abdomen would look flatter. This is not something I would recommend unless you want to end up, like Monroe, dependent on those artificial means of going to the bathroom.

Constipation will also distend the tummy, so make sure to drink lots of water and eat high-fiber foods like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. The fiber in these foods will also make you satisfied with less food and they are low in calories, too.

Posture

The quickest way to make your belly look smaller is to stand straight. And the quickest way to have a pot belly is to slouch. Whenever you slouch, your abdomen has no other place to go but stick out in front.

I cannot stress how important good posture is both for your looks and the health of your spine. Not only should you remind yourself daily (even every hour) to sit and stand properly, but you should also make it a habit to pull in your abdominal muscles instead of just letting everything hang out.

Strengthen the muscles of your upper body (shoulders, back and chest) to "pull" your shoulders back and open. Stretch hip and leg muscles, because when these muscles are tight, they pull the pelvis out of alignment, making the belly jut forward. This is one reason why I encourage people to do weights and some form of "elongating" exercise like Pilates or yoga because the combination of the two formats can improve posture dramatically.

Alcohol, smoking and stress

What do alcohol, smoking and stress have in common? They all raise the levels of cortisol, a stress hormone, that scientists suspect direct fat to be stored in the abdominal region.

Stress can also indirectly affect your belly if it drives you to overeat as a coping mechanism. Alcohol, meanwhile, can be a major source of excess calories because it is just so easy to gulp down a couple of hundred calories in one sitting.

Total approach

Do heart-pumping total body exercise to burn off the fat, weight training to increase muscle mass and metabolism as well as improve posture, tighten the abs with the right variety and technique of abdominal exercises, eat the right food to avoid gas, constipation, and excess calories, drink lots of water, drink alcohol in moderation, find ways to relax and, finally, stand straight and hold in your gut!

The article is a reprint of the author's column on Feb. 8, 2000

A mind-body-spirit...

From page D1

stances in the food we eat such as preservatives, coloring, etc. can damage our bodies as badly as toxic relationships can sicken our spirits. If you want to live longer and happier, get rid of the toxins in your life now before it's too late.

U—Understanding the self is the first step in achieving personal power.

V—Veggies loaded with fiber and antioxidants contribute to your well-being.

W—Water is essential to healthy living. Drink 6-8 glasses of clean water daily.

X—Excess baggage in psychological terms means old hurts, painful issues, and unresolved anger that burden your psyche. Ditch them as quickly as you can.

Y—Yes is an affirmation to all that is good, true and beautiful. Approval of self is a positive habit we should practice.

Z—Zest for living can only be had through a heart that is open to life and open to loving fearlessly.

Love & Light!

A complete guide: "My ABC's on Beauty and Wellness", available at National Book Store.

Nestlé Nutren workshop on "Total Wellness" by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino available for a nominal fee. Call Hazel Flores at 898-0001 local 7183 or Jean local 6713.

e pose

THIS is an easier version of the hand-to-toe yoga pose (hand holding the toes with the raised leg extended straight). It develops balance, strengthens muscles of the supporting leg, and stretches the buttocks and inner thighs of the raised leg.

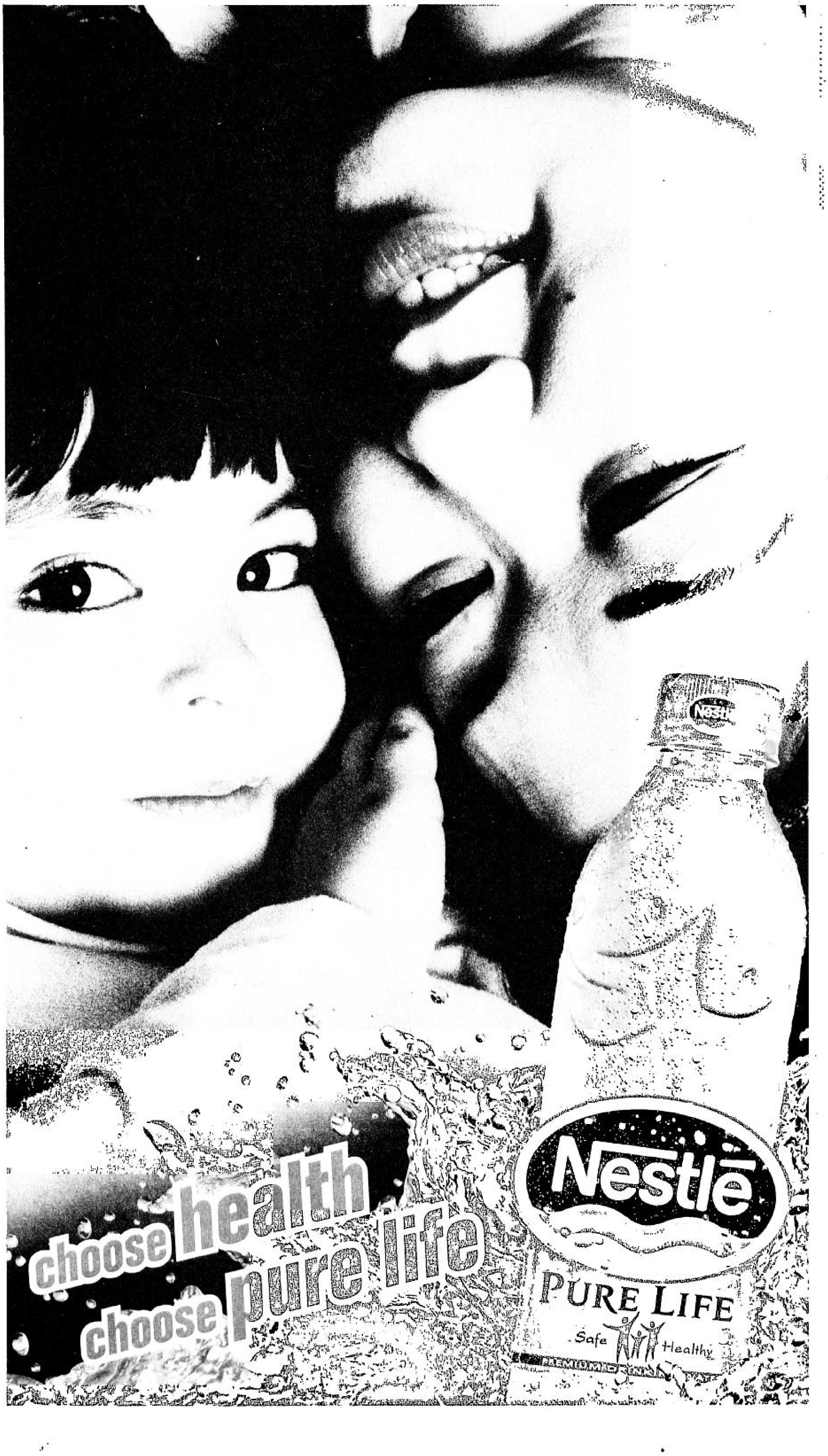
Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your legs together. Place your left hand on your hip.
2. Raise your right knee and place your right hand underneath your thigh.
3. Stand tall as you pull your knee as high as you can. Use your arm to keep it steady. Stay in this position for three to five breaths.
4. Move your leg to the side and hold it there for three to five breaths.
5. Slowly lower your leg to the floor. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. One breath equals an inhalation and an exhalation. Keep your breaths steady and consistent in length and depth.
2. Gaze at a single spot in the distance to help you maintain your balance.
3. Keep shoulders relaxed and pressed down away from your ears.
4. An even easier modification is to hold a chair or table instead of putting your hand on your hip. As your sense of balance and muscles get stronger, progress to hand on hip.



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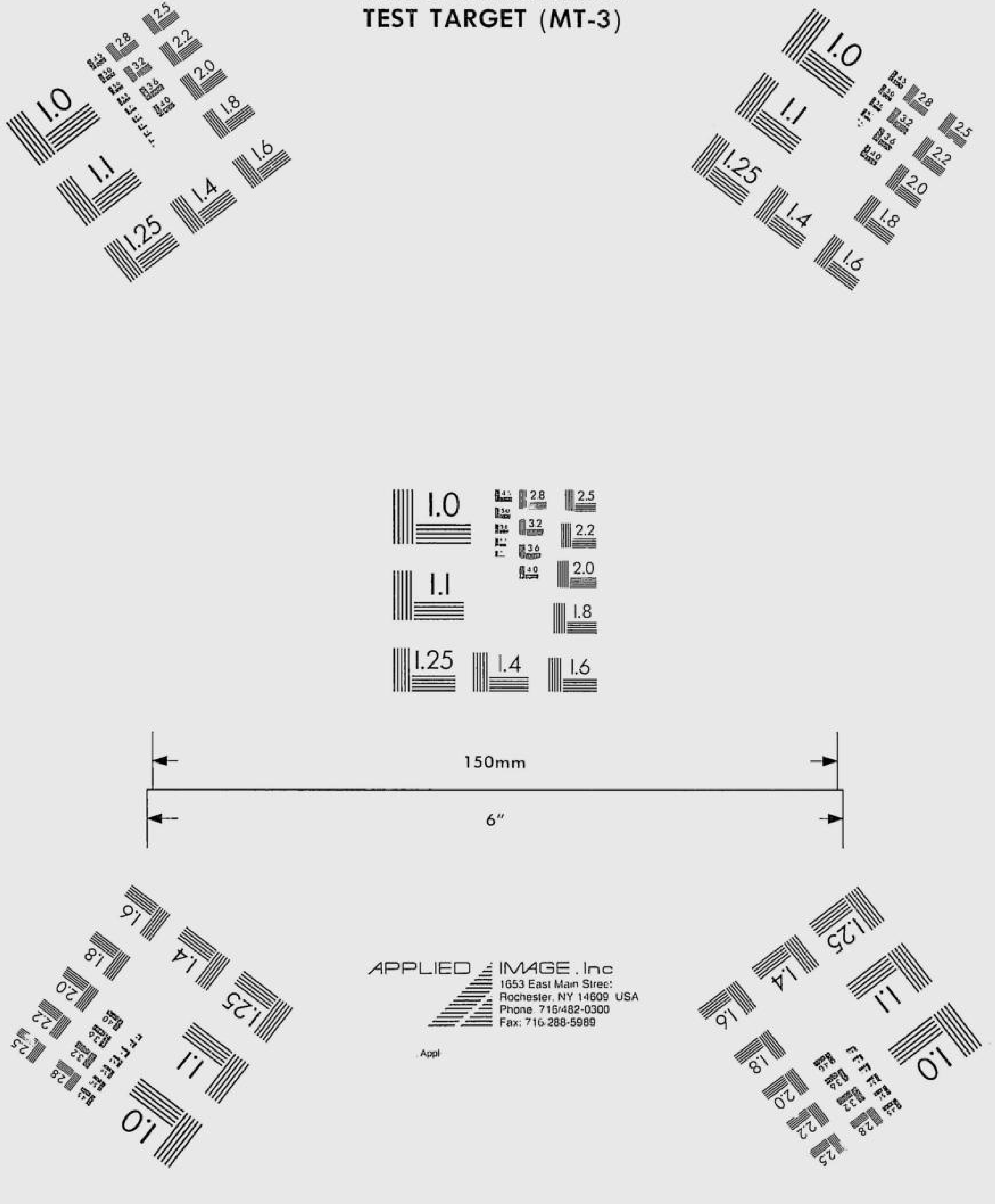
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Rochester, NY 14609 USA
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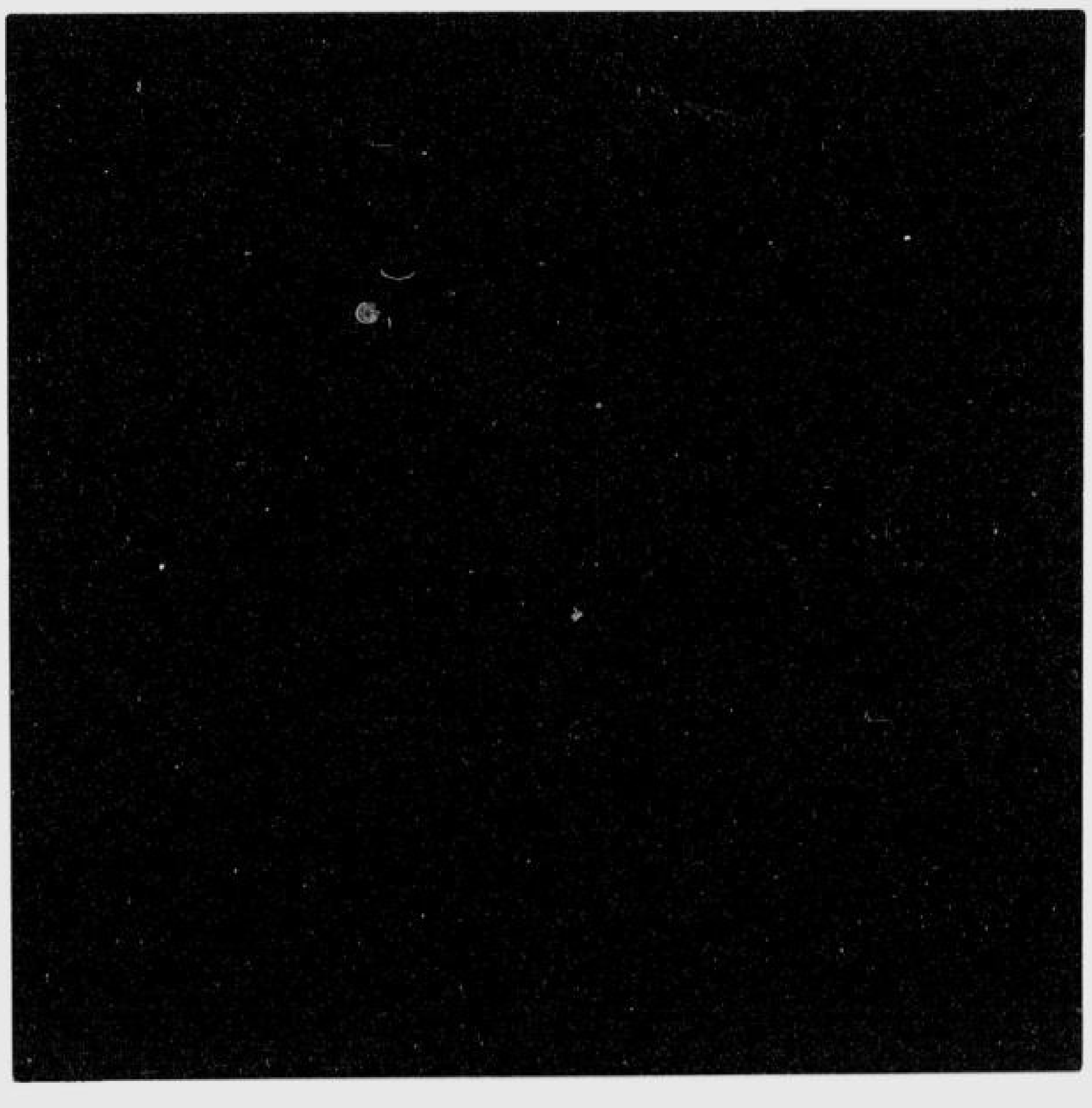

END

PLEASE REWIND

START

ATENEO DE MANILA
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P.O. BOX 154, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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FILMED: DECEMBER 2003

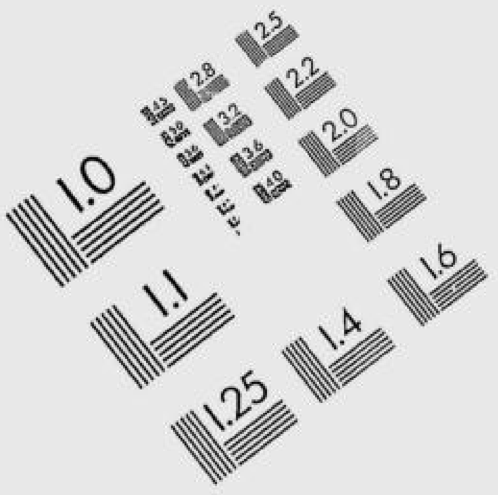
REDUCTION: 19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JULY
16 THRU 31
2003

REEL 313

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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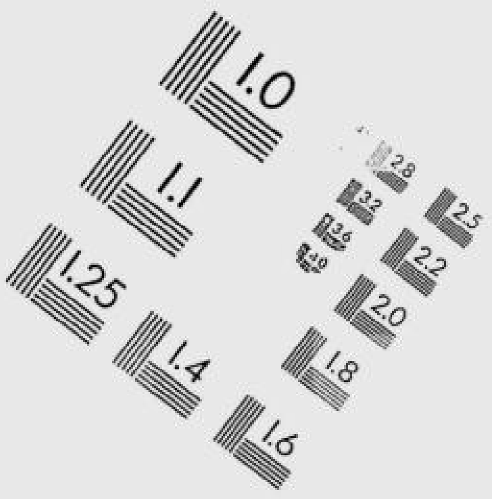
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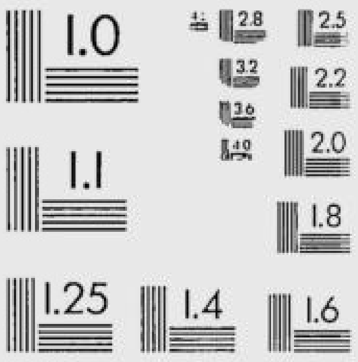
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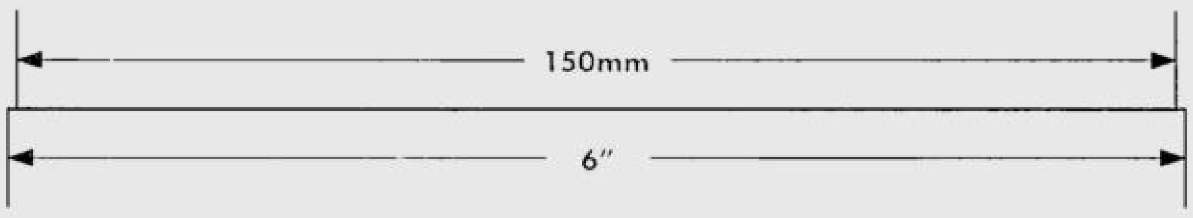

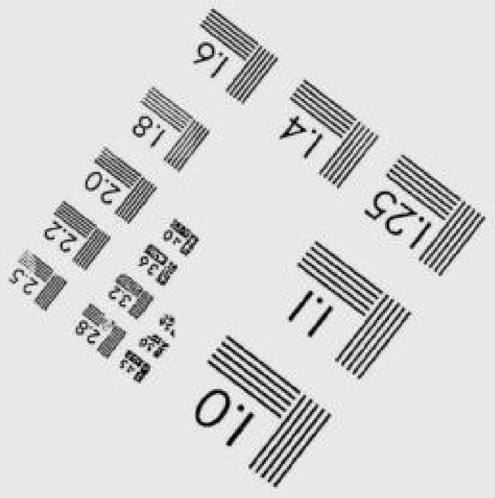
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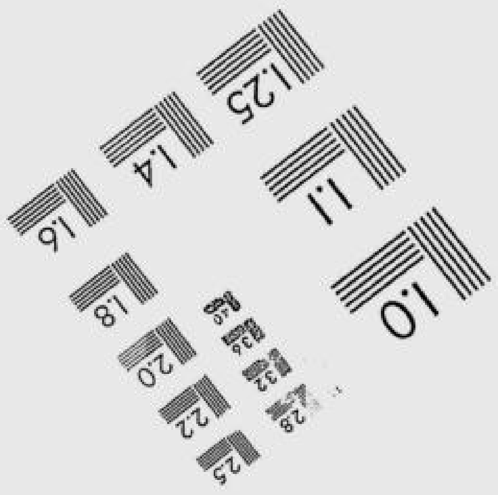
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